TUESDAY
June 17, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 143

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Exposing Israel's hidden ambition

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MERCEDES' DAY OUT

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India's total trade deficit narrows to $6.6 billion

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's overall trade deficit narrowed to $6.6 billion in May 2025, down nearly 30% from its level in May last year, as total imports fell largely due to a fall in oil prices while total exports grew on the back of a strong performance by the services sector, official data show.

According to the monthly data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday, total exports grew 2.8% to $71.1 billion in May 2025 – up from $69.2 billion in May 2024 – with exports in the service sector growing 9.4% to $32.4 billion. Merchandise exports, on the other hand, contracted 2.2% to $38.7 billion, while non-petroleum exports reported a 5.1% growth.

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India moving citizens in Iran, Israel to safer places

Embassy working with Iranian authorities to transport Indian citizens out of Tehran by buses as crisis grows; more than 100 students cross from Iran to Armenia; Indians told to limit movement

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As the conflict between Iran and Israel continues to escalate, the Indian government has initiated efforts to move its citizens in both countries to safer areas, though no evacuation plans are currently in progress. It has also advised them to limit their movements, given the daily aerial strikes.

The Indian embassy in Tehran began working with local Iranian authorities on Monday to shift Indian citizens from the capital and other cities being targeted by Israeli strikes to safer places by bus, while more than 100 students have crossed the border to Armenia.

Uncertain skies: Smoke and fire seen in Tel Aviv during an Iranian missile attack on Israel early on Monday. AP

In Israel, where the airspace is closed completely, Indian embassy officials in Tel Aviv are guiding citizens who can move out through land borders with Jordan and Egypt. At present, it is possible to leave Israel through these borders, officials said, and those wanting to return to India are being advised on the best possible routes to reach the border sites.

The number of Indian citizens in Israel has grown rapidly to an estimated 25,000 over the past 18 months after India agreed to requests for skilled labour to work on construction projects after Israeli authorities cancelled thousands of work permits to Palestinians.

However, an Indian research scholar based in Israel, who asked not to be named, told *The Hindu* that "no details of arrangements for transport or an evacuation plan have been shared so far". "It would be good to know what the government is thinking about," the scholar added.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who has been in touch with his counterparts in Iran and Israel in the last few days, also spoke with others in the region on Monday.

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High EP ratio for several districts raises concern

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The electoral list for Karnataka has indicated either a sharp decline in birth rate or higher migration level in some districts as their elector-population (EP) ratio is higher than the State and national average, causing concern.

The EP ratio is the total number of registered voters as against the projected population.

The EP ratio in the 2025 final electoral rolls of Chikkamagaluru district reflects low birth rate in this coffee-growing Malnad district, according to Election Commission of India officials.

According to them, the district having the highest EP ratio of 85.84 among all the districts in Karnataka showed that the population growth rate has sharply declined, and a ground study using data from PDS (ration card), National Sample Survey and National Family Health Survey have pointed out at the low growth rate. The national EP ratio is 66.76 and State EP ratio is 70.16.

The "abnormal" EP ratio is not restricted to Chikkamagaluru district. Vokkaliga heartland districts of Mandya, Hassan, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru, where political awareness is very high and migration in search of livelihood to Bengaluru is significant, have also recorded a higher EP ratio.

In Bengaluru where voter turnout always remains low against the State figure, the EP ratio remains at 52.94 (BBMP-Central) 54.93 (BBMP-North) and 51.78 (BBMP-South), lowest among all in the State.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 6

NEARBY

103 bike taxis booked; some continue to run

BENGALURU
The Transport Department booked 103 cases against bike taxis and seized the vehicles on Monday as the services were expected to cease their operations from June 16 in the absence of any order from the High Court of Karnataka allowing them to operate.
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Karnataka students in Iran seek to return

BENGALURU
Nine students from Karnataka studying in a medical university in Iran have sought help to return to India amid ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel. » Page 4

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INNOCEAN-035/25

In South Africa's greatest triumph, Markram makes an indelible mark

Having been the skipper of the South African team that finished runner-up in last year's T20 World Cup after stumbling against India, the 30-year-old top-order batter has etched a stunning redemption by making 136 in the fourth innings of the WTC final against Australia to help his country break the hoodoo in marquee ICC events

Vivek Krishnan

Just before the heavens opened up at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on the afternoon of June 29, 2024, a distraught Aiden Markram was subjected to a barrage of unpleasant queries on yet another heartbreak for South Africa. In the aftermath of a seven-run defeat to India in the T20 World Cup final, it was incumbent on Markram as skipper to try and explain how his team could botch up an eminently favourable position in a run chase of 177 – 30 runs were needed off the last five overs with six wickets in hand – to add to the country's gut-wrenching history of near-misses. The dreaded c-word, of course, had haunted many previous South African captains including Hansie Cronje, Shaun Pollock and Graeme Smith.

Within a year from that day in the Caribbean, though, Markram has had his redemption, and how! At a sun-lit Lord's Cricket Ground in the heart of London on Saturday, the 30-year-old, in contrast to his emotions at the conclusion of the T20 World Cup, exulted with joy as South Africa vanquished old nemesis Australia in the World Test Championship final to lift its first major ICC title (it won the Wills International Cup in 1998 before the tournament was re-branded as the ICC Champions Trophy). Having produced a monumental 136 in the fourth innings to help the Proteas chase down 282, Markram, adjudged the Player-of-the-Match, was at the front and centre of South Africa's greatest triumph.

Over six hours at the crease spanning Friday and Saturday, Markram demonstrated class, poise and nerves of steel to defy not just a formidable Australian bowling attack but also his country's tumultuous past. The psychological toll of last year's T20 World Cup final played on his mind even at the end of day three, when he was unbeaten on 102 with South Africa needing just 69 more runs to complete an epoch-defining win. So much so that Markram endured a sleepless Friday night.

"I tried to take a sleeping tablet, it didn't work," Markram admitted at Saturday's post-match presser. "The mind just couldn't switch off. I thought a lot about the T20 World Cup last night and how hopeless I felt sitting on the side after getting out. I was like, I don't want to sit there again. So it gave me a bit of motivation to make sure I stay at the crease if I could. It was always about just trying to get the job done and trying to win."

Markram didn't quite manage to be there in the middle right at the end when Kyle Verreynne hit the winning run off Mitchell Starc at the stroke of the lunch interval on Saturday. With six more runs needed for the result to be set in stone, Markram was attempting to draw the contest to a close in a blaze of glory with a flamboyant flick against Josh Hazlewood. For once in his masterful exhibition, he didn't execute the shot as desired and holed out to Travis Head at midwicket.

As he began trudging back to the dressing room in disbelief, every Australian player on the field walked up to Markram to pat him on the back. And every one of the 30,000-odd spectators rose from their seats in unison to applaud a truly majestic display. As Pollock would mention on the official broadcast, it was fitting in a way that Markram, peeved as he must have been to not be there at the close, got to walk off to a standing ovation from the Lord's crowd.

GETTY IMAGES

Standing out from the rest

With his exploits at a venue steeped in rich tradition, Markram has left an indelible mark in the annals of South African cricket. To be clear, the nation has produced an array of bonafide greats since readmission into international cricket in 1991 - from the likes of Jacques Kallis, Hashim Amla and A.B. de Villiers with the bat to Pollock, Allan Donald and Dale Steyn with the ball. But none of these iconic figures managed to experience the satisfaction of delivering on the big day and winning titles.

For Markram to walk an untrodden path and stand out reflects highly on his icy temperament. Going into the run chase of 282, the odds were understandably stacked against the South Africans. Just as they were heading into the final, not least because Australia was the defending champion. Yes, the surface eased up as the match wore on, but batting was evidently South Africa's weak link. It was noticeable in its first essay when it was shot out for 138 in reply to Australia's total of 212. Markram was dismissed for a blob in the very first over, inside-edging an inswinging delivery from Starc onto the stumps.

Second time around, though, Markram was in his element, allaying the tension in the South African dressing room with some exquisite boundaries early on. Languid and easy on the eye, he got going with a delectable punch off Hazlewood through point for four.

The delivery from the Australian metronome was slightly short of a good length, and Markram, with minimal transfer of weight onto his back foot, presented the vertical blade to pick the gap on the off-side.

When Starc went full in the search for swing in the fifth over, there was none as Markram leaned forward and unfurled a silken cover drive for another boundary. As the innings progressed, the deft late cuts, honed in the shorter versions where he is ever so adept, were just as regal.

If conquering the quicks is Markram's strong suit, he betrayed no sign of discomfort against Nathan Lyon's off-breaks either. With Starc's footmarks from the other end providing a few rough patches for the experienced offie to target, the threat confronting the South African batters was palpable. But the elegant batter from Centurion nullified Lyon with swift reading of length and precise footwork. Quite tellingly, in fact, Markram has now faced 270 deliveries from Lyon in his Test career without ever being dismissed. All of the Australian bowlers kept plugging away in the belief that the contest would turn, but Markram didn't allow any such thing to transpire.

GETTY IMAGES

All of this is illustrative of a player with the ability to occupy a place in the pantheon of batting luminaries from his country. But like many confounding things about South African cricket, it is hard to put a finger on why Markram's average languishes in the mid-30s after 46 Tests.

It is, interestingly, against Australia that he seems to produce his best performances. Of his eight hundreds in the five-day version, three have come against the men from Down Under. "The Australians and South Africans are pretty similar and they play the game in a similar way. Play the game hard, play the game to compete, and play the game to really win. I think it brings out the best in a lot of cricketers, and not just myself," he said.

That Markram is cut from a different cloth when it comes to handling pressure could perhaps be gleaned even before his senior debut in 2017. Three years prior to that, he was the skipper of the South African junior side that won the U-19 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. In the final against Pakistan, Markram led the way with an unbeaten 66 in a meagre chase of 132. It remains South Africa's only U-19 World Cup triumph till date.

Is there something about the big games that supposedly brings out the best in Markram? "I'm not sure. I got a duck in the first innings. So it's weird. I just think it's desperation to win, to be honest," he answered. "I've said it recently that I'm not here to chase numbers and stats and things like that. I really just want to win stuff for South Africa now. So I'm at peace with that. And I think it's quite a nice place to be in as a player because your full care is towards everyone in the changing room. If things work out then great, but the personal milestones and stuff like that will never be a thing now."

Having tasted blood, Markram clearly wants to build on this moment of glory. Well, if he goes about his business as serenely as he did against the Australians at Lord's, the rest of the cricketing world better watch out.

THE GIST

- Within a year of the loss in the T20 World Cup final, Markram has had his redemption, and how! The 30-year-old, in contrast to his emotions at the conclusion of the T20 World Cup, exulted with joy as South Africa vanquished old nemesis Australia in the World Test Championship final to lift its first major ICC title
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(Tendering & Procurement),
DIPR/Dharwad/283/Manipal/2025-26 **HESCOM, Navanagar, Hubballi.**

धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे

विद्युत विभाग– ई निविदा सुचना क्र. ३७ सन २०२५–२६

मा. आयुक्त, धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे हे मनपा निधी सन २०२५–२६ अंतर्गत **विद्युत विषयक एकूण १ कामे** ई–निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑनलाईन) पात्र **कंत्राटदार निविदेतील अटी व शर्ती पूर्ण करतील अशा कंत्राटदारांकडुन** B_1 नमुन्यातील निविदा ई– निविदा प्रणालीद्वारे (ऑनलाईन) B1 Percentage Rate नुसार निविदा दर मागवीत आहोत. या निविदांची संपूर्ण माहिती व निविदा दि. १८/०६/२०२५ रोजी संध्याकाळी १७.०५ ते दि.०२/०७/२०२५ रोजी सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपावेतो डाऊन लोडिंगसाठी https://mahatender.gov.in संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करून देण्यात येईल. सदर कामांची निविदा दि. ०४/०७/२०२५ रोजी सकाळी ११.०५ वाजता शक्य झाल्यास उघडण्यात येईल.

प्राप्त होणाऱ्या निविदापैकी एक किंवा सर्व निविदा स्वीकारणेचे अथवा नाकारण्याचे अधिकार सक्षम अधिकारी यांचेकडे राहतील.

सही/–
आयुक्त तथा प्रशासक
जा.क्र./ धुमपा/पा. पू./३१ /२०२५–२६ **धुळे महानगरपालिका, धुळे**
दिनांक – १६/०६/२०२५

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L.,
M.L.B.C., Division No. 1, Ramdurg - 591 123.
Phone : 08335 - 242143, E-mail : ee.knnlmlbc1rmd@gmail.com

No. : 1) EE/KNNL/MLBC-1/PB/Tender/SLIS/KRBC/2024-25/1110, Date : 06-11-2024, 2) EE/KNNL/MLBC-1/DB/Tender/SLIS/Call-2/2024-25/2301, Date : 19-03-2025, 3) EE/KNNL/MLBC-1/DB/Tender/SLIS/Call-2/MLBC/2025-26/359, Date : 13-06-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER 1st & 2nd Call NOTIFICATION

(Through K.P.P. Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by KPPP portal in the prescribed form in **Two Cover System** is invited by the undersigned on behalf of **Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore** from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 **The No. of works 21. The Approximate Cost of Amount put to Tender is 12.69 Lakhs to 906.31 Lakhs EMD is Rs. 31,800 to 13,59,500 and Sl. No. 19, 20 & 21 works is reserved for ST, SC & Category - 1, E.M.D. is Rs. 62,500.00, 33,900.00 & 41,450.00.** KPPP Portal in Single Transaction.

Contractor can Access and Submission of Completed E-tendering Documents from : 16-06-2025 to 26-06-2025 upto 16.00 hours in the Website : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Technical Bid will be Opened : 27-06-2025 @ 16.00 Hrs. And after Approval of Technical Bid the Date of Financial Bid : 30-06-2025 Opening will be intimated to the qualified Bidders. Stipulated Period for Completion of Work : 06 to 11 Month (Including Monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit **Website : http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during Office hours on **Telephone No. : 08335 - 242143.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Belagavi/483/Manipal/2025-26 **K.N.N.L., M.L.B.C.C., Division No. 1, Ramdurg.**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/651 /2025-26 **FORM – III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)** **Date: 16.06.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Formation of road from Gear School road to Peripheral Ring Road via Gunjur palya, Varthur** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the width of **45.00mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk **: Bengaluru East** Name of the Village **: Panathuru**

Sy. No / Khatha no.	Type of land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building details			Present activity on land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted Undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No.39/11A, Katha Sl No.232, Municipa No.232	Vacant land		Converted Land	2617.07		Sy No.39/10 & Sy No.59	Sy No.39/11B	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/11A	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/11A	None	None	None	Vacant	60,000/-	1.M/s. Earnest Constructions Pvt.Ltd., Registered Office at No.10, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-560001, 2. M/s.Anushka Constructions Pvt.Ltd., Registered Office at No.100/1, City Center, Opposite Town Hall, J.C Road, Bangalore-560002.

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No:ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (E), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No:ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024-25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch office
Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

FORM III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/632/2025-26 **(See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)** **Date: 16.06.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Formation of Road from Hoodi Railway Station to Kumbena Agrahara via Sadaramangala As per RMP-2015.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk : **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Hoodi**

Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the land/ plot and Extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the Land/ Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m.	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout/ Developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy.No.107/2	Vacant Land		Agriculture Land			1547.42		Remaining Portion of Sy.No.107/2	Remaining Portion of Sy.No.107/2	Sy.No.107/3	Sy.No.107/1B	None	None	None	Vacant	55,000/-	Sri. H. N. Gopala Gowda S/o N. Nagappa. Residing Adarsha Nilaya, Hoodi ITPL Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru-560 048.

Note:

- Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No. NAE 137. MNU 2024 (E), Dated: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No. Commissioner/P.S.R/G/ 1802/2024-25, Dated: 21.09.2024.
- Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/626/2025-26 **FORM – III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)** **Date: 16.06.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Construction and Formation of Connecting 18.00m wide road from Neha Prakash Hospital to Attur Ananthapura main road in Ward no-03 of Yelahanka Satellite town sub division for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the width of 18.00m.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk **: Bengaluru North** Name of the Village **: Atturu**

Sy. No / Khatha no.	Type of land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building details			Present activity on land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted Undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	Easr	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Katha No. 332, E.PI.E.D. No. 9559860959 Sy. No.66	Vacant land		Converted Land	3125.79		Mandiakunte Village Boundary	Remaining Portion of Sy.No. 67	Remianing Protion of Sy. No. 57, 65, 68, 75, 66	Remaining Portin of Sy.No. 66, 67	None	None	None	Vacant	35,000/-	Sri. Arun.B. Ranka S/o Banwaralal Hasthimal Ranka, R/at No. 553, Ranka Court Apartments, # 18, Cambridge Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560008.
Sy..No.67				1745.03											

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No:ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (E), ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No:ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಪ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024-25, ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch office
Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Bihar
Sheikhpura, Patna-800014 (Bihar, India)
Tele. : 0612-2297631, 2297099; Fax : 0612-2297225, Website : www.igims.org
E-mail : director@igims.org

E-Tender Notice No.: 10/2025-2026/Dietary Service/IGIMS/ Store

E-Tender Notice

E-tendering mode only on website - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

IGIMS, Patna invites e-bids from reputed, experienced and financially sound companies / Firms / Agencies for the **setting up and operationalizing kitchen for providing dietary service at IGIMS, Patna on Rate Contract Basis.**

The last date & time for submission/ uploading of complete tender document at www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is 22/07/2025 up to 17:00 hours. A pre-bid meeting will also be arranged on 01/07/2025 at 03:00 PM in the Board Room of Superintending Engineer at ground floor of New Administrative Building.

Details of specification of equipment's, terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website: www.igims.org & **www.cproc2.bihar.gov.in.**

The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and www.igims.org for Corrigendum / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on these portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.

DIRECTOR, IGIMS, PATNA

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

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1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU thehindubusinessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY

(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004(KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Courtthe Special Officer & Competent Authority (under KPIDFE-IMA and other Scam), is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each material lot/auction in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 1109/2023)	MINIMUM BID PRICE (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1	All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.101/1 measuring 8 Acre 4 guntas, situated at Achakanahalli Village, Jath Taluk, Sangli District, Maharastra bounded on: East By: Windmill Road, West By: Land belonging to Sri. Babasahed Vithoba Bhosale, North By: Land belonging to Sri. Ramachandra Laxman Patil, South By: Windmill Road.	30,78,000/-	3,08,000/-	31,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
28th July 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	29th July 2025 11:00am to 05:00pm	31st July 2025 Before 5pm	1st August 2025 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: **splocaeauction@gmail.com** or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru **The Special Officer & Competent Authority,**
Date: 16-06-2025 DIPR/CP/1275/ZEN/2025-26 **(Under KPIDFE - IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru, Karnataka**

103 cases booked against bike taxis; some aggregators continue to operate

Cases on Monday were booked across 11 RTO limits, 16 of them in the West Zone

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A commuter using the bike taxi service in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Transport Department booked 103 cases against bike taxis and seized as many vehicles in Bengaluru on Monday as the services were expected to cease their operations on the day in the absence of any order from the High Court of Karnataka allowing them to operate.

A single judge of the High Court of Karnataka in April said that transport technology aggregators like Ola, Uber, and Rapido cannot operate bike-taxis unless the State government framed guidelines, while giving time till June 15 to the aggregators to cease operation of their bike taxis.

June 24 hearing
Though aggregators challenged this order before a Division Bench, it decided to hear their appeals on June 24 stating that it cannot pass any interim order, as the government has said that it has taken a policy decision not to frame guidelines/rule to allow bike-taxis on aggregator platform.

As the June 15 deadline has expired and appeal is pending for adjudication, the service of bike-taxis cannot be offered through aggregator platforms unless a regulatory framework is introduced or the Division Bench passes any order in favour of the aggregators based in the outcome of their appeals.

"The time given by the High Court to cease operations of bike taxi services is over and the Transport Department will take action against the violators. The government's stand is that these services are illegal and hence, should not be operated," said Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy talking to *The Hindu*. The cases on Monday were booked across 11 regional transport offices (RTO) limits and the highest number of cases (16) were booked in the West Zone.

Operations continue
Despite the government's stand, on Monday morning, a few aggregators continued to operate bike taxis and commuters used the services in Bengaluru. On some apps, the name of the service was changed to courier or parcel instead of rides.

The aggregator, Rapido, put up a message on its app which said: "Starting June 16, 2025, our bike taxi services in Karnataka will be paused in compliance with recent High Court orders." It also said, "We are navigating the way forward with the government to bring your favourite bike taxis back on the road soon."

A spokesperson from Uber also said, "Uber has taken the difficult decision to suspend bike taxi operations in Karnataka from June 16 following an order from the High Court. This will negatively impact the many thousands of riders who rely on bike taxis for their daily mobility needs, as well as the many thousands of drivers who rely on the service for their livelihood. We will continue engaging with the Government of Karnataka to help shape a progressive policy framework that enables safe, accessible, and affordable mobility options for everyone."

Meanwhile, commuters lamented the shutting down of an affordable transport service.

"The government first banned car-pooling apps and now bike taxis. I am heavily dependent on these taxis for last-mile connectivity from my house in Malleswaram to the metro station. Today, I booked a bike taxi on one of the apps and the wait time was 18 minutes. I would usually get it in less than five minutes. The cost of bike taxis is almost 50% less than that of autorickshaws," said Shriya Kumari, a postgraduate student.

Riders write to CM, Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Bike Taxi Association, a representation of bike taxi riders in Bengaluru, wrote to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi requesting them for a sustainable solution instead of an overnight ban.

"Over 1,00,000 gig workers in Bengaluru and across Karnataka are losing our right to earn and feed our families because of a blanket ban on bike taxi services. As their collective voice, this is an appeal to you to stop this ban and help us earn our daily bread with dignity. We, bike taxi drivers, are students, daily-wage earners, helpers, parents – many of us turned to this work when jobs were not available, especially after COVID. This is how we pay rent, school fees, and medical bills. Bike taxis are not a side income. They are how we survive," Mohammed Salim, the president of the association said in the letter.

Rapido bike taxi driver booked for slapping passenger

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police have registered an assault case against a Rapido bike taxi driver for allegedly slapping a woman passenger over rash driving, in Jayanagar on Friday.

The victim, a private firm employee, hired the bike and later objected to the rider's rash and negligent riding.

A heated argument ensued between them, following which the accused, later identified as Suhas, allegedly slapped her, sending her tumbling to the ground. Passers-by witnessed the incident and one of them recorded the video on his mobile phone, which went viral.

The Jayanagar police reached the spot and took stock of the situation, but the victim refused to file a complaint. However, the police registered an Non-Cognisable Report (NCR).

The victim on Monday approached the police and filed a complaint, based on which the police summoned the accused and questioned him. He was booked under under Sections 79 (outraging the modesty of a woman), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) of BNS, for further investigation.

In her complaint, she said that the rider was not following traffic rules and was riding in rash and negligent manner. When questioned, he allegedly misbehaved with her, used abusive words and slapped her. "I was not interested in filing a complaint, but after the video went viral, my friends suggested that I go ahead," she said in her complaint.

Meanwhile, the police said that the accused had alleged in his statement that the complainant was rude and shouted at him, and also hit him with a tiffin box.

Driver's reply
In a video released to the media on Monday, Suhas said that he told the woman that he took a shortcut to save time.

"She didn't let me speak and spoke very rashly. She also hit me with her tiffin box. I also hit her. In a fit of anger, I told her to go back to her State. I don't speak fluent English, but I responded to her in English," Suhas alleged.

Thrissur temple assistant arrested for sexual assault on woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bellandur police have arrested an assistant at a temple in Thrissur, in Kerala, for allegedly sexually harassing a 38-year-old private firm employee based in Bengaluru on the pretext of performing puja to ward off evil.

The accused, Arun T.A., 40, is working as an assistant to the priest in Vishnumurthy temple in Thrissur, Kerala.

According to the complaint, the woman had gone to the temple in Thrissur seeking divine intervention for the problems she is facing after the death of her husband.

Black magic
Arun reportedly told her that someone had done black magic, and promised to perform a puja to ward off evil.

Harassment
He took her contact number, and allegedly started calling and harassing her on video calls. He allegedly sexually assaulted her when she had visited the temple, and threatened to perform black magic on her two children if she did not cooperate.

Blackmailed
The accused allegedly recorded his act on video and blackmailed her demanding sexual favours.

Complaint lodged
The woman narrated her ordeal to her relatives and filed a complaint on June 13. Based on the complaint, the police arrested Arun.

Two die in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two dancers were killed when a lorry knocked them down on the Nelamangala-Kunigal bypass road early on Monday.

They were identified as Sahana, 21, and Prajwal, 22, residents of Srirampura.

The police said the duo was returning to the city after a programme. Sahana was driving the scooter and they were not wearing helmets, the police said, adding that a lorry bearing Rajasthan vehicle registration number and heading towards Tumakuru knocked them down. The two were killed on the spot. The Nelamangala traffic police have registered a case. The lorry driver has been arrested and the vehicle seized.

City schools get hoax bomb threat emails

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Schools in Udupi and Hassan got similar threats which were later found to be a hoax

Several schools across the city received hoax bomb threat emails on Monday. This comes three days after a similar threat was received by the Kempegowda International Airport.

Schools in Udupi and Hassan got similar threats which were later found to be a hoax. Panic gripped several schools in north and west divisions of the city following the bomb threat. On being alerted, the police made a thorough check and declared it to be a hoax.

Probe on
The same email was sent to many schools in Bengaluru and other parts of the State, the police said, adding that a probe had been launched to ascertain the source of the mail.

Earlier on Friday, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), in charge of handling security at the Bengaluru airport, received a hoax email.

Based on a complaint lodged by Prakash Kumar Mishra, senior official of the CISF, the airport police filed an FIR under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Cyclothon, walkathon held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra, Banashankari, organised a cyclothon and walkathon from Rajarajeshwari Nagar Temple to Rashtrotthana Hospital to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living on Saturday. Naveen, sub-inspector, flagged off the event. Students, teachers, parents, and staff participated in the event and distributed eco-friendly seed balls and raised slogans hightlighting the need to protect the environment.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. B-SG-Proj-SBC-RPF-Thana-CCTV
Dated : 09-06-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Provision of CCTV cameras at 16 locations of RPF office over Hubballi Division (Hubballi, Dharwad, Ballari, Hosapete, Gadag, Koppal, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Belagavi, Londa, Ghataprabha, Vasco-Da-Gama, Castle Rock, Workshop / Hubballi, Sadulshahr, CIB/Hubballi), Provision of CCTV cameras at RPF post and outposts having coverage over space provided for keeping accused and interrogation purpose at Mysuru, Hassan, Arsikere, Davangere, Shivamogga Town Station over Mysuru Division and Replacement of old aged Video Surveillance System at Hubballi Station.	Rs. 4,08,91,001.33

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 03-07-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Project, Bengaluru
PUB/184/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED

JSS Public School, B.S.K. II Stage Science Department celebrated World Environment Day in the school auditorium, highlighting the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution." The event was presided over by the Principal, Smt. Gowri B. Nataraj, who emphasised the importance of adopting sustainable practices such as reducing pollution, conserving resources, and promoting eco-friendly habits. Students from various classes presented a spectacular show conveying the urgent need to protect the environment. Their enthusiastic participation clearly reflected their keen interest in conserving nature and spreading awareness about environmental responsibility, demonstrating the school's ongoing commitment to nurturing environmentally conscious citizens.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Mahila Seva Samaja Senior Secondary School organised the Investiture Ceremony for the academic session with Smt. Revathi Suresh, Honourable Secretary of Mahila Seva Samaja, as the Chief Guest. She inducted the newly elected Student Council members through a badge pinning ceremony. The student leaders were chosen via a transparent election process, which included nomination, manifesto submission, scrutiny, campaigning, and online voting through Google Forms. The eco-friendly election ensured minimal error. After installing the office-bearers, the Chief Guest encouraged students to balance academics and co-curriculars. The council pledged to uphold unity, harmony, and responsibility within the school community.

CAMPUS WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK

NPS, Hosur Road marked the beginning of the new academic session with a joyful welcome for students. Excitement filled the air as students were greeted by their teachers with warm smiles and gathered in the playground for the morning assembly. The Principal, Mrs. Usha Mahesh Reddy, addressed the students with an encouraging message. In classrooms, teachers had planned engaging welcome activities to help students settle in and enjoy their first day. Children were thrilled to reconnect with friends and meet new teachers, ending the day on a cheerful note, eager to return the next day.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221
E-Tender No.: MCOR-3-2025
Dy. CME/WFPS, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of the **President of India,** invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed firms based on **Two Packet System** for the under mentioned work.
1. Name of work with its location and completion period : Name of work : Validation of Heat treatment & Stress relieving of BOXN/BGC Wheels on quarterly basis for 3 years as per scope of work. **Location :** At RWP/Bela. **Completion Period :** 3 Years., **2. Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 59,47,200.00, **3. Earnest Money Deposit :** ₹ 1,19,000.00, **4. Tender closing date and time :** 07.07.2025 at 15:00 hrs., **5.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender.
Dy. CME/WFPS, RWP, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2025-26/27

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed Mrs. Anita Alm Pandeya being the sole and absolute owner of all that piece and parcel of the property bearing **BBMP E-Aasthi Khatha No. 38,** E-PID No. 2537342363, measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 50 Feet, in all measuring 4000 Square Feet, together with a building constructed thereon measuring about 3660 Square Feet, situated at 80 Feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage, affirms that she has lost/misplaced the following original documents pertaining to the said property: (i) Allotment letter dated 20.04.1977 vide No. B11/38- HAL /1977-78, issued by the BDA, in favour of Mr. Syed Mukram Ali son of late Mr. Syed Hamid Ali; **(ii) Possession Certificate dated 27.08.1977** vide PR No. 215/1977-78, issued by the BDA, in favour of Mr. Syed Mukram Ali son of late Mr. Syed Hamid Ali; **(iii) Sale Deed dated 10.10.1987,** executed by the BDA in favour of Mr. Syed Mukram Ali son of late Mr. Syed Hamid Ali, registered as Document No. 1716/1987-88, Book I, Volume 2627, Page 26, before the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore; and **(iv) Sale Deed dated 22.10.2000,** executed by Mrs. Mazhar Sulthana wife of Mr. Syed Mukram Ali and other in favour of Mrs. Anita Alm Pandeya, registered as Document No. 2099, Book I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore. She further affirms that the aforesaid documents have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral/security and she is not in a position to trace the said documents and **Mrs. Anita Alm Pandeya** had also lodged a complaint to the Sub Inspector, Indiranagar, Police Station, Bangalore on 07.02.2009 and **Lost Article Report on 20.12.2024, vide Serial No. 1391698, Lost Report Nos. 1391698/2024** with the Bangalore City Police.
This notice is being published again in continuation of the earlier publication made on February 17, 2009, in The Hindu newspaper, as a matter of abundant precaution.
Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid documents may return the same to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **8 days** from this day to the undersigned.
K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038.
Ph: 9591067392/ 8123209808

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule below from its lawful owners **Mr. Keshavan Sriram Krishnamani S/o Asthagiri Raman Krishnamani, Mr. Gopalan Hariharan Krishnamani S/o Asthagiri Raman Krishnamani and Mr. Govindhan Narayanan Krishnamani S/o Asthagiri Raman Krishnamani.**
I hereby call upon the general public that, if any person has any manner of legal right, title, interest or claim over schedule property, shall submit their objections and claims, if any with complete records in support of their claim within **fifteen days** from today to the address mentioned below. Thereafter no claims of whatsoever nature shall be entertained by my client and my client would proceed to purchase the schedule property presuming that the present owner of the schedule property is absolute owner of the same.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of **Site No. 191, I Phase, Block Sector "A" Yelahanka New Town, Extension, Bengaluru-64** measuring **East to West 70'0"** and **North to South 45",** totally measuring **3150 Sq. Ft.** and bounded on:
East by : Road,
West by : Site no. 178,
North by : Site no. 192,
South by : Site no. 190.
YASHVANTH. K.V. Advocate
13/1, G Block, Sahakarangara,
Bengaluru– 560092.
Ph: 9980668759, 9845427108

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.10 UBL 2025-26
Dated : 09.06.2025
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Vijayapura / Jurisdiction - Hotgi (Excl) - Basavanabagewadi Road (Excl) (Zone-3/A).	Rs. 18,28,160/-
2	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Vijayapura / Jurisdiction - Bagalkot (Incl) - Khajjidoni (Incl) - Basavanabagewadi Road (Incl) to Badami (Excl) (Zone-3/1A).	Rs. 20,34,633/-
3	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Central / Jurisdiction - Annigeri (Excl) - Gadag (Excl) - Badami (Incl) (Zone-4A).	Rs. 23,78,649/-
4	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Central / Jurisdiction - Karajgi (Incl) - Hubballi (Excl) - Annigeri (Incl) (Zone-4/1A).	Rs. 23,48,278/-
5	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Belagavi / Jurisdiction - Alnavar (Excl) to Miraj (Excl) (Zone-5).	Rs. 30,35,396/-
6	Hubballi Division: Assistant Divisional Engineer / Castlerock / Jurisdiction - Londa (Excl) to Vasco-da-Gama (Incl) (Zone-6).	Rs. 33,86,806/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11.00 Hours on 08-07-2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination Hubballi
PUB/189/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-02 Tender Notice No: 02/2025/SBC Dated : 03-04-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.
Description in brief : Supply of Bellows Set consisting of 1 No. of Supply Air Below, 2 Nos of Fresh Bellows and 2 Nos of Return Air Bellow Ducts. **(Tender No. L8255530) (Qty : 400 Set.)**
Changed to Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 30-06-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/185/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-03 Tender Notice No: 07/2025/SBC Dated : 02-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.
Description in brief : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane of 10T Capacity with Auxiliary Hoist of 3T Capacity.
(Tender No. L8255216A) (Qty : 02 Nos.)
Changed to Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 30-06-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/186/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
UTTARAHALLI BRANCH
629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560061
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where is", As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Depost are also mentioned hereunder:
Name and address of the Borrower(s) / Gurantor(s) / Mortgagor(s):
(1) Mrs. C Rama Devi, Flat No-105, 1st Floor, Landstar Pinnacle, Hirandahalli Village, Bidarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore - 560049. **(2) Mr. C Venkatesh,** Flat No-105, 1st Floor, Landstar Pinnacle, Hirandahalli Village, Bidarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore - 560049. **(3) Ms. Sai Shwetha C,** Flat No. -105, 1st Floor, Landstar Pinnacle, Hirandahalli Village, Bidarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore - 560049.
Amount due: Rs.59,13,758/- as on **21.08.2024** plus subsequent interest and charges.
Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold: Flat bearing No. 105 having 2 BHK on the 1st Floor of the building known as 'LANDSTAR PINNACLE APARTMENT' measuring 1130 square feet super built up area with 376 sq.ft. of undivided right, title and interest in property bearing Khata No. 615/79/2 and 1420/8/4, Old Sy No. 79 and New Sy. No. 79/2 measuring 1 Acre, Sy No. 80/4 measuring 0.23 guntas totally measuring 1 Acre 23 Guntas, situated at Hirandahalli Village and Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk - 560049 and bounded by: **East:** Podium; **West:** Corridor; **North:** Duct; **South:** Duct.
Reserve Price: 65,25,000/-
(Rupees Sixty Five lacs Twenty Five Thousand Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 6,52,500/-
(Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)
(10% of the Reserve Price mentioned above)
Date and time of E-Auction: 30-06-2025 between 12:00 P.M. to 05:00 PM
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for submission of EMD : On or before the commencement of E-Auction
E-Auction website: https://baanknet.com and https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx
For Details terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com** and **https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx**
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://baanknet.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to **ubin0910422@unionbankofindia.bank** or contact No. **8291220220,** 629/443/2A, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560061.
Date : 13.06.2025
Place : Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

Forbidding Arabian desert once had a lush and bountiful chapter

Speleothems and several archaeological sites reveal a lush history in the Arabian Peninsula, challenging theories of migration; the cause of this lushness was phases of humidity over the last eight million years, which gradually turned a desiccated landscape into a well-watered grassland

Sanjukta Mondal

A view of the Al Nefud desert near Ḥa'il city in Saudi Arabia. For years, researchers believed the Arabian Peninsula had always been a barren land where humans only settled once they had domesticated camels and goats. RABAH AL SHAMMARY/UNSPLASH

The region called Arabia sits at the heart of the earth's driest deserts, stretching from the Sahara in the west to India's Thar Desert in the east. It holds the distinction of being the largest biogeographical barrier on the planet. Over millennia, the arid conditions of the Saharo-Arabian Desert are expected to have prevented hominins and wildlife from migrating between Africa and Eurasia.

Research has found that this arid barrier has existed for at least 11 million years.

Then again, fossil evidence from the late Miocene and the Pleistocene epochs has suggested that water-dependent animals like crocodiles, hippopotamuses, and horses roamed the region as recently as 74,000 years ago.

The two facts raise a curious idea: could Arabia, the formidable wall of dryness, have once been a more nourishing land?

Mineral deposits uncovered recently in the caves of central Saudi Arabia have bolstered this possibility: that Arabia was indeed once part of a lush green landscape that, among other things, allowed animals – including our ancestors – to migrate through as they spread out of Africa.

According to the researchers who studied the deposits, the cause of this lushness was intermittent phases of humidity the region experienced in the last eight million years, which gradually turned a desiccated landscape into a well-watered grassland. Their findings were recently published in *Nature*.

In search of Green Arabia

"I visited Saudi Arabia as part of a Fulbright award. I was curious why no one was integrating Arabia into the Out of Africa story and wanted to assess the situation first hand myself. At the time, I was working in India and I had hypothesised that movements out of Africa would have been across the Arabia-India zone," Michael Petraglia, director of the Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution, leader of the 'Green Arabia' project, and a coauthor of the study, said.

The research team itself was international and was supported by the Saudi Heritage Commission in the kingdom's Ministry of Culture.

For years, researchers believed that the Arabian Peninsula had always been a barren land with a foreboding environment and where humans had only settled a few thousand years ago, especially once they had managed to domesticate animals like camels and goats. This belief kept Arabia firmly out of theories of 'Out of Africa' – a popular model that suggests modern humans originated in Africa and then migrated to the rest of the world.

The 'Green Arabia' hypothesis cuts through this belief and suggests that this now-arid land had the occasional humid or rainy phases that transformed it into a wet and verdant terrain, crisscrossed with rivers and lakes and capable of sustaining diverse plant and animal life.

From a decade-long quest to accumulate evidence for the 'Green Arabia' idea, Petraglia singled out the Jubbah Oasis, a remnant of an ancient lake in Saudi Arabia. "As soon as we arrived, we found buried archaeological sites on old lake beds! We have archaeological sites going back 500,000 years now and so we know early human ancestors, and our species, were crossing the area during times of high rainfall. We have now documented a network of rivers and about 10,000 ancient lakes of every age," he said.

The hypothesis is important because the Arabian Peninsula sits at a crossroads between Europe, Africa, and Asia. Researchers have expressed hope that understanding past climate in the region can help answer fundamental questions: How did early humans and their ancestors spread across continents? And how did changing environments shape their evolution?

Let it drip

When water flows through the ground, it sweeps up minerals in the soil along its path. When this mineral-rich water slowly drips into caves, it forms icicle-like formations that hang from the ceiling and rise up from the cave floor. These formations are called speleothems.

The researchers collected 22 speleothems from seven cave systems located in central Saudi Arabia. The mere presence of these formations, they said, was evidence of a wetter past because they form in two conditions: sufficient regional rainfall and enough vegetation and soil carbon dioxide to form carbonic acid (which dissolves limestone and triggers speleothem formation).

As a result, they added, any changes in humidity, groundwater, and vegetation would have altered the speleothems' structure. These changes are then preserved as the next mineral layer is deposited.

> The findings highlighted that precipitation during humid intervals decreased and became more variable over time as the monsoon's influence weakened, coinciding with enhanced Northern Hemisphere polar ice cover during the Pleistocene

Another advantage of using speleothem archives to reconstruct past climates is that they can be accurately dated using routine radiometric methods, such as uranium-thorium and uranium-lead dating.

Uranium is a radioactive element and decays into thorium and lead at a fixed rate. This allows scientists to calculate how old a speleothem is by measuring the ratio of uranium to thorium in a sample.

Radiometric dating of the mineral formations revealed that over the last eight million years, central Arabia had gone through cycles of wet and dry periods. The earliest sign of a humid phase was between 7.44 million and 6.25 million years ago, and the most recent ones were between 530,000 and 60,000 years ago. These wet phases were often relatively short-lived, lasting only thousands to tens of thousands of years at a time.

"The findings highlighted that precipitation during humid intervals decreased and became more variable over time, as the monsoon's influence weakened, coinciding with enhanced Northern Hemisphere polar ice cover during the Pleistocene," Monika Markowska, the lead author of the study, said in a statement.

The researchers have proposed that these wetter conditions played a pivotal role in helping mammals and early humans migrate between Africa and Eurasia and that the Arabian Peninsula served as a hub of continent-scale biogeographic exchange.

The past and the future

Archaeological evidence throughout history has indicated that human populations expanded when the climate was wetter and that during dry periods, they either moved to more hospitable areas, even if they were also geographically restricted or simply went extinct.

Will history repeat itself as 21st century humankind faces a climate crisis? This is a hard question to answer because human society today is highly technologised. For example, without air-conditioners, people may have already migrated out of regions suffering extreme heat today.

That said, the past is more than just about humans. For the last 15 years, another interdisciplinary team of researchers (also involving Petraglia) has been documenting ancient lakes and archaeological sites from 200,000 years ago to the present to track a changing climate and its effects on ecosystems.

"The past holds many lessons for us, as climate and a warming earth is a serious concern to humanity today," Petraglia said.

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels. sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com)

A pod of sperm whales. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A whale tooth's journey from the sea to a Copper Age pit

The Hindu Bureau

When archaeologists were digging a new library site at Valencina de la Concepción in southwest Spain in 2018, they uncovered an unusual item: half of a large sperm-whale tooth lying in a 4,000-year-old pit.

Because nothing like it had ever been reported from Copper-Age Iberia, the team ran a bevy of tests to learn where it could have come from and how it ended up in the pit.

Thus, based on evidence of marine boring and beach-root damage, the team unravelled the tooth's long journey from a sperm whale's mouth and to a settlement deep inland, offering *en route* a timeline of coastal processes four millennia ago.

Their findings were recently published in *PLoS One*.

The team shot overlapping photos with a camera and processed them to build a detailed 3D model that could be rotated on a screen, allowing tiny marks to be examined without handling the fragile specimen.

Then team members used a digital microscope to reveal surface scratches, drill holes, and biological bores smaller than a millimetre wide.

The team also unraveled four kinds of small tunnels and grooves: made by sponges, marine worms, grazing snails, and burrowing barnacles. They also mapped bite marks left behind by sharks.

The shape of the root – thick with a single point and light enamel – matched contemporary sperm whales. The original tooth was estimated to have been 20-25 cm long, meaning the whale was an adult.

Radiocarbon dating of the other animal bones and pottery in the pit revealed it was dug in about 2500-2400 BC.

Based on evidence of marine boring and beach-root damage, the team unravelled the tooth's journey from a sperm whale's mouth to a settlement deep inland, offering *en route* a timeline of coastal processes four millennia ago

In this way, the team reported that after the whale died, the tooth stayed on the seabed long enough for sponges, worms, snails and barnacles to bore into it and for sharks to scavenge the carcass. Later, water currents rolled it around and partially buried it in sand.

Someday, a storm or very high tide finally tossed the tooth onto a nearby shore. While buried in beach sand, plant roots etched new channels and a limestone crust formed on its surface.

Humans of the Copper Age then picked it up, probably because it looked exotic and valuable, and pressed several chisels or awls into the break edge to split pieces off pieces, probably to use in ornaments.

Eventually, the people placed the trimmed tooth in a pit about a metre wide and deep along with broken dishes, stone tools, and animal bones. The archaeologists didn't find any human bones inside and thus concluded the pit to be a "structured deposition," meant to remove precious items from everyday use.

This is the only sperm-whale tooth found in Copper-Age Spain and only the second in the Western Mediterranean of similar date. Its discovery thus widened the list of rare and prized materials – including elephant ivory, ostrich eggshells, and rock crystals – circulating at Valencina at this time.

The burial also showed that coastal objects, even from gigantic sea creatures never seen alive inland, held symbolic power for communities engaged predominantly in farming.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Things that stink

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

This mammal is notorious for a combination of compounds it emits when threatened, including (E)-2-buten-1-thiol, (Z)-2-buten-1-thiol, 3-methyl-1-butanethiol. Its name is also a verb that means to best someone thoroughly. Name it.

QUESTION 2

The foul smell of _____ ____ is thanks to the presence of a compound called N,N-Dimethylmethanamine. At higher concentrations, in fact, this compound causes cells in the bodies mucous membranes to die off. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

Combine hydrogen sulphide, dimethyl sulphide, and methyl marcaptan and you'll get the odour responsible for _____. It emanates mainly due to poor oral hygiene but has also been associated with symptoms of OCD. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

At a low concentration, _____ is responsible for the fragrance of jasmine flowers. At a high concentration, it's responsible for the odour of poop. Fill in the blank with the name of a compound. Hint: The first half of its name comes from the Greek for 'excrement'.

QUESTION 5

Surströmming is a traditional part of Swedish cuisine. It has a pungent, rancid, acidic smell thanks among others to the presence of butyric acid. This acid is also responsible for the smell of X, i.e. substances forcefully expelled from the stomach. Name X.

Answers to June 10 quiz:

1. Name for the near-shore ecological zone – **Ans: Neritic**
2. A partially enclosed body of brackish water – **Ans: Estuary**
3. Average salinity of seawater – **Ans: 35 parts per 1,000 parts of water**
4. Mud and this material make up the soil in salt marshes – **Ans: Peat**
5. Community of organisms living on ocean surfaces – **Ans: Neuston**

Visual: **South China Sea**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | G. Anusha | Tamal Biswas | Anmol Agrawal | Deepak Gogiya

Visual: Name the fruit depicted in this Singapore mass transit sign. The fruit is infamous for its sulphurous reek discernible across large distances. PROJECTMANHATTAN (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

ALLEN's result validated by
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AIR 4 — Mrinal Kishore Jha — Classroom Course

AIR 7 — Keshav Mittal — Classroom Course

AIR 8 — Jha Bhavya Chirag — Classroom Course

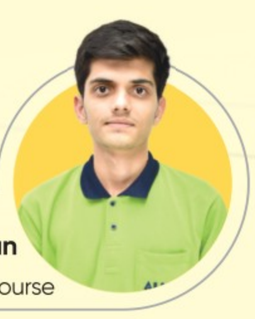
AIR 10 — Aarav Agrawal — Distance Learning

AIR 12 — Aashi Singh — Classroom Course

AIR 13 — Tanay — Classroom Course

AIR 15 — Manvendra S. Rajpurohit — Classroom Course

AIR 16 — Rachit S. Chaudhuri — Online Test Series


AIR 21 — Umaid Ahmed Khan — Classroom Course

AIR 22 — Ruchir Gupta — Classroom Course

10 Students in Top 25 AIR

39 Students in Top 100 AIR

ALLEN South Delivers Again

AIR 22 — Ruchir Gupta — Classroom Course

AIR 42 — Pranshu Jahagirdar — Classroom Course

AIR 88 — Prajan Srivari G — Classroom Course

AIR 122 — Nidhin Karthik S — Classroom Course

AIR 127 — Prashanth Gurumoorthy — Classroom Course

AIR 190 — Aridhya Agrawal — Classroom Course

AIR 205 — Sreehan K Sreerag — Classroom Course

AIR 258 — R Jagannivason — Classroom Course

AIR 334 — Vishwa V — Classroom Course

AIR 523 — Risha Goel — Classroom Course

AIR 584 — Rajeev Bennehalli — Classroom Course

AIR 625 — Subramani Varun — Classroom Course

AIR 759 — Purav Gomedhikam — Classroom Course

AIR 790 — Anusha Verma — Classroom Course

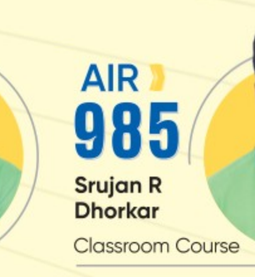
AIR 849 — Aathreya Venkatachalam — Classroom Course

AIR 854 — Tharun — Classroom Course

AIR 896 — Aaron Pius — Classroom Course

AIR 920 — Yadesh M — Classroom Course

AIR 963 — Gaurav Agarwal — Classroom Course


AIR 982 — Ekaansh T Sanjay — Classroom Course

AIR 985 — Srujan R Dhorkar — Classroom Course

03 Students in Top 100 AIR

09 Students in Top 500 AIR

21 Students in Top 1000 AIR

43 Students in Top 2000 AIR

As per result compiled till 14 June 2025 (11:00 PM)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount pledged by bank for France-Spain power link

1.6 In billion euros. The European Investment Bank announced 1.6 billion euros for a major electricity interconnection between France and Spain, after the huge April blackout. Experts believe the severity of power outages could have been mitigated with more interconnections. AFP

India's unemployment rate increased in the month of May

5.6 In per cent. India's unemployment rate rose to 5.6% in May from 5.1% in April, partly due to a drop in farm activity after the end of the harvest season, the Statistics Ministry said. Unemployment rate among urban youth, aged 15-29, rose to 17.9% in May from 17.2% in April. PTI

Estimated cost of Delhi's dust pollution mitigation project

2,388 In ₹ crore. Delhi government's road dust pollution mitigation project is likely to cost ₹2,388 crore over a period of 10 years, as per a proposal approved by Cabinet. "This project is only for cleaning of dust in the carriageway," meeting's minutes stated. PTI

Number of families evicted from Goalpara, Bongaigaon districts

696 The Assam government launched eviction drives to evict families, mostly belonging to the migrant Bengali-speaking Muslim community, who allegedly encroached on vast tracts of land in the two districts of Goalpara and Bongaigaon. PTI

Number of nationals Poland seeks to evacuate from Israel

200 Poland is preparing to evacuate its citizens from Israel to escape conflict with Iran. "We have implemented an evacuation plan for Polish citizens stranded in Israel through Amman," Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister said. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is the significance of the Shipki La pass?

Why was tourism and trade stopped at the Shipki La pass? What is the cultural and spiritual connection that binds people on both sides of the border? Did the Shipki La pass account for a great volume of bilateral trade between India and China? Will its reopening encourage religious tourism?

EXPLAINER

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:
Himachal Pradesh has opened the Shipki La pass, a motorable mountain pass in the Kinnaur district, to domestic tourists, a step which locals hope will revitalise tourism and trade.

What is its historical importance?
Centuries before national borders and geopolitical tensions defined regions, the Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district served as a vital trade route between India and Tibet (now part of China). Situated at an elevation of 3,930 metres above sea level, the pass has been part of documented trade since the 15th century, although oral histories suggest its legacy extends even further back. According to folklore, cross-border trade was based on an oath sworn by communities on both sides – "Till the water in Kailash Man Sarovar Lake does not dry, a black crow does not turn white, and the highest peak Rijo Pugal does not flatten, this trade agreement shall continue." This poetic pledge symbolised an enduring bond that withstood centuries, until political realities disrupted it.

Why was the trade route closed?
The once-thriving commerce through Shipki La came to a standstill due to a series of geopolitical events. It was first disrupted after the Sino-India War of 1962, followed by further breakdowns post the Doklam standoff and the COVID-19 pandemic. The trade route remains shut to commercial exchange.

Why has the recent intervention sparked enthusiasm?
The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh inaugurated tourism access to Shipki La without the previously mandatory permit system. Indian tourists can now visit using just their Aadhaar card, a move that has stirred optimism across the region.

New beginnings: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu takes part in a performance during the launch of tourism activities, at Shipki La pass in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, on June 10. PTI

The communities of Kinnaur, particularly those from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, share a deep-rooted cultural and economic relationship with Tibetan counterparts. Historically, the Bushahr State (now Rampur) in India and Guge in Tibet were principal players in the region's trade. The Kinnaur Indo-China Trade Association, based in Reckong Peo, has voiced a formal appeal to reopen the trade route through Shipki La. The Chief Minister has assured that the issue will be taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs.

What goods were traded?
The commodities exchanged between India and Tibet through Shipki La were both diverse and valuable.

Imports from Tibet included wool (the most profitable item), pack and saddle horses, goats, sheep, mutton, yak and goatskins, yak hair (used for ropes and saddlebags), devotional items such as prayer wheels, thangkas, rosaries, and bowls, as well as borax, turquoise, and gold. Exports to Tibet from India included grains such as barley, wheat, rice, millet, lentils, chickpeas, and oil, dried fruits, vegetables, spices, tobacco, timber, copper and brass utensils, and iron tools.

Gold and turquoise were particularly cherished, which were integral to traditional Kinnauri women's jewellery – creating constant local demand and sustaining artisan communities. These exchanges weren't just transactional; they shaped cultural practices, local crafts, and even dietary habits across generations.

If trade volume is limited, why is there still so much excitement?
It's true that trade through the three land passes with China – including those in Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand – does not account for a significant volume of bilateral trade.

But enthusiasm for trade and tourism lie in connectivity and opportunity. Reopening Shipki La could shorten the journey from Delhi to Mansarovar by 14 days, a potential game-changer for religious tourism and cross-border travel. This could also boost employment for local youth, enhance regional trade infrastructure, and catalyse growth in hospitality and allied sectors.

Additionally, the reopening may serve a strategic purpose as well – a soft diplomatic gesture and a community-led model of cross-border trust-building, independent of high-level state diplomacy. For a region often sidelined in national dialogues, such grassroots engagement could play a crucial role in shaping future peace corridors.

What is the cultural connection?
Unlike the India-Pakistan border, where cross-border blood relations exist, the India-China border around Shipki La is defined more by shared lifestyles than lineage. The people on both sides are primarily pastoralists, and many surnames overlap – for instance, the Namgyal surname is found both in Leh and across the Tibetan plateau.

Cultural ties also endure through religion. Upper Kinnaur and the adjacent Tibetan region predominantly follow Buddhism, sustaining a spiritual and civilisational continuity even in the face of political divisions. Monastic traditions, festivals, and oral lore reflect a shared heritage that survives despite barriers of nationhood. Reopening Shipki La could become more than a regional story – it might just be a case study in diplomacy through development and heritage.

Tikender Singh Panwar is former deputy mayor of Shimla, and member of the Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

- Centuries before national borders and geopolitical tensions defined regions, the Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district served as a vital trade route between India and Tibet (now part of China).
- The commodities exchanged between India and Tibet through Shipki La were both diverse and valuable.
- Reopening Shipki La could shorten the journey from Delhi to Mansarovar by 14 days, a potential game-changer for religious tourism and cross-border travel.

When can the U.S. President deploy military on U.S. soil?

Why did U.S. President Donald Trump federalise the national guard and send them to Los Angeles?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:
Widespread protests have erupted in Los Angeles, California, after raids by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) led to dozens of arrests. In response, U.S. President Donald Trump has deployed about 4,000 national guard troops and 700 marines.

Can military be deployed in U.S.?
Military troops, including national guard units, are barred from civilian law enforcement under the Posse Comitatus Act (1878), unless explicitly authorised by the Constitution or an Act of Congress. Such authorisation is provided through the Insurrection Act which permits the President to deploy the military during civil unrest. This can be done at a State's request, or unilaterally to enforce federal law, suppress rebellion, or protect civil rights when a State government is unwilling or unable to act.

How has it been used in the past?
U.S. Presidents have long deployed the national guard for civil unrest, but federalising it to support law enforcement directly against protests began only in 1967. The guard's federalised role expanded in the Civil Rights era, during protests for school desegregation, and the 1965 Selma-Montgomery March. Subsequently, President Lyndon B. Johnson deployed them for the 1967 Detroit Rebellion and after Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Richard Nixon and George H.W. Bush have also deployed them during various instances.

Is the Governor's consent necessary?
Mr. Trump's memorandum, instead of invoking the Insurrection Act, likely due to its widely recognised abuse potential, cites Section 12406 of Title 10 of the U.S. Code. This provision allows the President to call national guard members into 'federal service', under certain circumstances, including rebellion against federal authority. Traditionally, Presidents have used Section 12406 as the procedural mechanism along with the Insurrection Act's substantive powers, invoking both to justify deployment.

Interestingly, Mr. Trump has attempted to decouple these authorities. In federalising and deploying the national guard, he appears to rely either on Section 12406 as a standalone power or pair it with claimed 'inherent' constitutional authority (Article II of the Constitution), citing his Presidential duty to protect federal personnel, property, and functions. For active-duty military deployment, he seems to lean solely on inherent constitutional power, as Section 12406 does not authorise using active-duty armed forces for such purposes. However, this employed legal framework lacks the 'unambiguous authority' that the Insurrection Act provides to engage troops. Under Title 10, the President's authority to deploy the national guard without the Governor's consent is ambiguous – while the first part of the provision allows federalisation, another mandates that orders "shall be issued through the governors".

On June 9, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Governor Gavin Newsom sued President Trump and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, calling the unilateral federalisation of California's national guard an "unlawful" overreach.

How does it work in India?
Article 355 of the Constitution mandates the Union to protect States against "external aggression" and "internal disturbance". This allows the Centre to deploy the army even without a State's request. While 'public order' is a State subject, the Union can deploy armed forces to aid 'civil power' under Entry 2A of List I. In *Extra-Judicial Execution Victim Families Assn. versus Union of India* (2016), the Supreme Court held that armed forces deployment supplements, not supplants, a State's continuing civil power. Crucially, deployment must be withdrawn once normalcy is restored; normalcy not being restored cannot serve as a fig leaf for prolonged, indefinite, or permanent military presence.

Kartikey Singh is a lawyer based in Delhi.

THE GIST

- Military troops, including national guard units, are barred from civilian law enforcement under the Posse Comitatus Act (1878), unless explicitly authorised by the Constitution or an Act of Congress.
- U.S. Presidents have long deployed the national guard for civil unrest, but federalising it to support law enforcement directly against protests began only in 1967.
- Article 355 of the Indian Constitution mandates the Union to protect States against "external aggression" and "internal disturbance".

9 students in Iran seek help to return home; B-PAC team stranded in Israel

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Nine students from Karnataka studying in a medical university in Iran have sought help to return to India amid ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel. The students have been pursuing medicine at the Shahid Behshti Medical University near Tehran, the capital of Iran.

A file photo of B-PAC team visiting Israel.

According to the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Forum Karnataka, Nadeem Hussain, one of the nine students, and his parents who reside in Bengaluru, contacted the forum expressing anxiety over the situation and seeking help to return immediately.

A statement from the forum noted that its vice chairperson, Aarti Krishna, has written to the Ministry of External Affairs urging quick intervention to bring back the students.

"We are in constant touch with the officials concerned and staff over the phone, and are personally monitoring the situation and taking action," the statement read.

Waiting to fly out

Meanwhile, 18 members of the B-PAC team, who went on a study tour to Israel, have been forced to stay back in Tel Aviv owing to the shutdown of airports in Israel.

The team, whose tour was from June 6 to 14, was scheduled to return on June 14. However, following the missile and drone strikes between both the countries, Israel closed down its airports and moved fleets of their major airlines out of the country.

"Our return has been delayed due to the airports closing down. But we all are taken care of by the Israel Consulate and the Indian Embassy here," said Matilda D'Souza, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee member and part of the B-PAC team, speaking to *The Hindu* from Tel Aviv.

According to her, the group includes members of political parties including Congress, BJP, JD(S) and AAP, apart from a few with no political associations. The group was visiting as part of the B.PAC Civic Leadership Incubator Programme.

"We have been provided with good accommodation and food. Hopefully we will be able to fly out soon," Ms. D'Souza said.

HC upholds acquittal of former French Consulate staffer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld a trial court's verdict of acquitting Pascal Mazurier, a former employee with the French Consulate in Bengaluru, of raping his three-and-a-half-year-old daughter in 2012. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sreenivas Harish Kumar (now retired) and Justice K.S. Hemalatha passed the order on June 5 while dismissing an appeal by Suja Jones Mazurier, wife of Mr. Mazurier.

Ms. Suja had questioned the correctness of the trial court's April 19, 2017 verdict.

"...the complainant [Ms. Suja] intentionally with the help of NGO and doctors has made the accused [Mr. Mazurier] as the scapegoat in order to restrain him from going out of India. Thus in my opinion, viewed from all angles, the prosecution has not made out prima facie case beyond all reasonable doubt," the trial court had said in its verdict.

While stating that the trial court was justified in acquitting Mr. Mazurier, Justice Hemalatha, who authored the verdict, said: "In view of the totality of medical, psychological and testimonial evidence, we find that the prosecution has failed to appreciate the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt. The medical findings do not support the charge and the testimonies are riddled with inconsistencies and procedural lapses."

Ms. Suja had alleged that her husband sexually assaulted their daughter in April 2010, May 2012, and on June 13, 2012, based on which she had lodged the complaint on June 14, 2012.

However, analysing Ms. Suja's co-ordinations with various NGOs, advocates and medical professional much prior to triggering incident of alleged rape of the child on June 13, 2012, both the trial court and the High Court have said that complainant's such approach raises serious questions about the credibility of the complaint.

The High Court also agreed with the finding of the trial court, which had said that it could not rule out that the complainant appeared to have falsely implicated her husband to prevent him from leaving the country with the children as he was planning to seek a divorce.

"Timing of the complaint suggests that she has been preparing to initiate legal action or build a case regardless of any specific incident on that day. The delayed complaint (from alleged incident in April 2010 to filing in June 2012) and the victim's prior medical history of genital infection further raises a doubt about the credibility and timing of the allegation," the High Court observed.

58 school drivers fail alcohol test

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The traffic police carried out a special campaign against school vehicle drivers in Bengaluru and booked 58 of them for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol.

The special three-hour campaign was carried out on Monday from 7 a.m., and 4,559 school vehicle drivers were checked for consumption of alcohol, of which 58 failed the test.

The accused drivers were booked under the IMV Act and their DLs were sent to the respective RTOs for suspension.

Domestic workers demand recognition, call for law similar to that of gig workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On International Domestic Workers' Day, the Domestic Workers' Rights Union urged the Karnataka government to introduce a law similar to that of the platform-based gig workers' Ordinance for the domestic workers too.

Workers who gathered at Freedom Park on Monday submitted a memorandum to Meena Patil, Assistant Labour Commissioner, demanding a welfare board, a task-force with a dedicated helpline, and constitution of tripartite boards to regulate employment, wages, working conditions and social security of domestic workers, among other demands.

"The recent introduction of four new labour codes by the government largely ignores the critical issues of the informal sector, specifically excluding domestic workers, as seen in the Occupational Health and Safety Code," read a statement from the union.

It pointed out that although in 2013-14, the Centre developed a National Policy for Domestic Workers, it was never tabled in Parliament. The memorandum called for the ratification of ILO Convention C189 to facilitate the enactment of national legislation. C189 convention is an international treaty that ensures domestic workers have the same rights as other workers. India has not ratified it yet.

"We have not even been given the identity of workers. Many people see us with suspicion and treat us like criminals," said Geeta Menon, secretary, Stree Jagruti Samiti, addressing the workers.

No water supply on June 19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no water supply across the city, served by water supply schemes Cauvery Stage I to V, from 6 a.m. on June 19 to 6 a.m. on June, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced.

In a statement issued on Monday, the BWSSB said that it will be joining a new pipeline of 3,000 mm diameter to the Cauvery V Stage pipeline at Torekadanahalli water pumping station on June 19 and will also take up annual maintenance work of all electric equipment as per the norms of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL).

BWSSB has asked residents and industrial units to stock up enough water in advance.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that my client, **Sri. NARAYANASWAMY L N**, S/o. Sri. Narayanappa, R/at. 22nd Ward, Shanthinagar, Devanahalli Town, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District, intend to purchase the Schedule property from Vendors namely: (1) **R. RAMAKRISHNA** S/o. Late. S. Ramaiah, (2) Smt. **SHREELAKSHMI**, W/o. R. Ramakrishna (3) Smt. **MAMATHA. R**, D/o. R. Ramakrishna (4) Smt. **DEEPA PRASHANTH**, D/o. R. Ramakrishna and (5) Sri. **PUNEETH R**, S/o. R. Ramakrishna, all are residing at No. 84, 36th Main, 4th A Cross, BTM Dollars Layout, Madivala, Bengaluru- 560068 (Owners) and M/s. **TRIDENT DEVELOPERS**, Registered No. GDN-F334/2020-21, represented by its Partners, 1. DEEPAK S CHANDRASHEKAR; 2. RAVI A, Office at. No. 15, CA Towers, Opposite to Country Club, Sathnur Village, Bengaluru Post, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru-562149 (Developer).

General public are notified that if there are any claimants or objectors/financial institutions or any other entity opposing the sale transaction, who possess valid and tenable documents in that regard may put forth their claim if any to the title or possession of the schedule property to the address of the counsel of the purchaser **within 15 days** from publication. Any objection without copies of valid documents and which is made after 15 days of publication will not be considered and my client shall go ahead with the sale transaction if there is no objection or claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. I: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 58, measuring 1 Acre, of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, converted vide official Conversion No. 267662 dated 29.09.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 70, West by : Land in Sy. No. 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 59, South by : Land in Sy. No. 70.

ITEM No.II: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 59, measuring 2 Acres of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 274471 dated 10.11.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by: Land in Sy. No. 70, West by : Land in Sy. No. 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 9 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 58.

ITEM No. III: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 60, measuring 2 Acres of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 274469 dated 10.11.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 10, West by : Land in Sy. No. 8 and 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 4 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 61.

ITEM No. IV: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 61, measuring 2 Acres of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 289680 dated 16.12.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy.No. 10, West by : Land in Sy.No. 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 60 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 62.

ITEM No. V: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 62/2, measuring 1 Acre 38 Guntas of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 289678 dated 16.12.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 10, West by : Land in Sy. No. 1, North by : Land in Sy. No. 61 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 63.

ITEM No. VI: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 70, measuring 3 Acres 14 Guntas of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 274470 dated 10.11.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 63 and 64, West by : Land in Sy. No. 58, 59 &10 North by : Land in Sy. No. 63,58 &10 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 64,69 &10.

ITEM No .VII: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 73, measuring 1 Acre and 10 Guntas of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 351023 dated 03.08.2022, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 4, West by : Land in Sy. No. 4, North by: Land in Sy. No. 4 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 72.

ITEM No. VIII: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 71, measuring 2 Acres and 18 Guntas of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 267665 dated 29.09.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 66 67, West by : Land in Sy. No. 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 10 & 66 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 10.

ITEM No. IX: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 72, measuring 0-34 Guntas of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 267668 dated 29.09.2021 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 10, West by : Land in Sy. No. 10, North by : Land in Sy. No. 10 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 60.

ITEM No. X: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 66, measuring 1 Acre of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 267663 dated 29.09.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No. 67, West by : Land in Sy. No. 10 & 71, North by : Land in Sy. No. 65 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 71.

ITEM No. XI: All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy. No. 69, measuring 4 Acres of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru

Rural district, vide official Conversion No. 267664 dated 29.09.2021, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the East by : Land in Sy. No.10, West by : Land in Sy. No. 70 & Road, North by : Land in Sy. No. 70 and South by : Land in Sy. No. 10.

ITEM No. XII: (Owned by Sri. B.S. Suresh S/o. B.S.Srinivas)

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 63/P2, measuring 2 Acres of Shrothreeyathellohalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural district and bounded on: East by : Land belongs to Sri. Nagarajappa, West by : Land belongs to Sri. R. Ramakrishna, North by : Land belongs to Sri. R. Ramakrishna and South by : Land belongs to Sri. R. Ramakrishna.

SRI. S.M. BIRADAR, Advocate
No.83, 2nd Floor, Sunkalpet Main Road, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-02.
Mob: 99809 49477. Date: 16-06-2025

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), one of the largest power transmission utilities in India, is a Government of Odisha undertaking is responsible for the transmission and wheeling of electricity across the State of Odisha at EHT voltage levels, Headquarter at Bhubaneswar, OPTCL operates a vast transmission network comprising over 16700 ckt. kms of transmission lines and 198 EHV substations, ensuring efficient power delivery across the State. In line with its commitment to employee welfare and community development, OPTCL proposes to establish a multi-disciplinary hospital at Bhoinagar Colony, Bhubaneswar, to provide quality healthcare services to around 2600 employees, their families and also the general public in the vicinity.

In this regard, OPTCL invites this Expressions of Interest (EoI) from experienced and qualified consultants for providing consultancy services, including preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of hospital project at Bhoinagar Colony, Bhubaneswar.

The last date for submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) is **01.07.2025**. Details of the EoI can be obtained from official website **www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-17/2025-26 **Sd/- CGM(HRD)**

CAD-797 /optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha OIPR-04011/11/0178/2526

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan,
Miller's Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATIONAL OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Online Application

Online applications are invited for the students of minority community of the Karnataka State who are studying Master's Course in the Foreign Universities for the academic year 2025-26.

Timeline

The Start Date for submission of online applications **13.06.2025.**

Last Date for submission of online applications starts from **30.09.2025.**

Eligibility

- The Student must be resident of Karnataka State.
- Student who belong to minority communities (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi) can apply.
- Nature of course – Full time course in Master's Degree/ Post Graduation.
- The upper age limit of the student should not exceed 38 years.
- The student's total annual family income should not exceed Rs.15.00 Lakh.
- The University must be within top 500 QS World Universities Ranking list.
- Aadhaar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
- Eligibility conditions for the scholarship is subject to the Government Orders and Guidelines issued by the Government from time to time.

Instructions for Applicants

- Applicants are instructed to apply online for National Overseas Scholarship through this link: **https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in/Sevasindhu/DepartmentServices**
- Submit copy of the application along with therequired documents to Directorate of Minorities Office, No. -16C, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore-52 on intimated date. The date for submission of Hard copies will be intimated via mail.
- Detailed information for filling out online application is available at **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in/new-page/Online%20Application/en**
- NPCI Active status & Aadhar seeding to bank account is mandatory to avail scholarship.

Date: 13.06.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1265/2025-26

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHAGYALAXMI, d/o: Surendra Prabhu, r/o: NO–1049, 12th Cross 1st Main, BDA Layout, Sarathi Nagar, JP Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru – 560078. Have Changed my Name as Bhagyalaxmi Prabhu, Affidavit dated 14/06/25

I, HIMA Bindu Bayappareddigari, w/o: Kiran Kumar Reddy Somagutta, r/o: NO–D 106, Marvel Sequoia, 1st Floor, D Tower, Channasandra Village, Bengaluru – 560067. Have Changed my Name to Hima Bindu Bayappareddygari, Affidavit dated on 14/06/25

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vinodh Chockalingam R/o C-125, Mukunda Nandanam Apartment, Kodigehalli, Kadugodi, Bengaluru -560067 have changed my minor son's name from Magizhan to Magizhan Vinodh for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, DINESH H.R. S/o. H.T. Rudranna. Have lost Original Sale Deed documents, Situated at No.604, Sarakki 2nd stage, JP.Nagar, Bangalore. Size: 12.19x(18.90 + 18.29)/2 meter. Registerd at Sub registrar office as No. 811/1992-93, Book 1, Volume 504, pages 184 to 190. If found call: 9886055449 or nearby police station.

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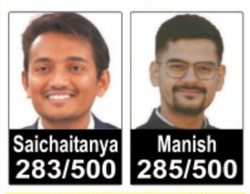
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NO. EO/TN/2/2025-26, DATED: 12.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1, KW2 from the registered KPWD/PWD/ Contractors & Reputed firm for the **works Sl. No.1 to 5.** The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **25.06.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **27.06.2025 at 10.30 A.M.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **30.06.2025 at 10.30 A.M.** For more details please contact e-portal helpdesk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com or 8046010000 / 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, **Phone No. 080-23332765.**

DIPR/CP/RO1258/2025-26 **Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Director (Animal Husbandry), Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560 002.

No: BBMP/2025-26/SE1566 Date:13.06.2025

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Animal Husbandry Department, BBMP intends to install 225 advisory boards, 1 in each ward as per the below specification in high-traffic areas of all wards under the jurisdiction of the BBMP to educate the public about the laws related to stray dogs. Interested bidders may submit their quotation rate (including GST) in a sealed envelope to the above address on or before **23.06.2025 up to 5:00 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Item Particulars
1.	Type of Signage - Advisory Board
2.	Reflective Vinyl Sticker Print
3.	ACP Sheet - 4mm thickness - 5 feet (L) x 6 feet (B)
4.	Shape - Rectangle
5.	Overall length of Board - 5 feet (L)
6.	Overall breadth of Board - 6 feet (B)
7.	Frame Support - 1" x 1" MS Square Pipe -14 guage
8.	Total length of the pole 12 feet (9 feet above the ground & 3 feet below the ground) 3" x 3" MS Square Pipe 14 guage 2 pole.
9.	Installation - 3 ft underneath ground with concrete
10.	Painting : 2 coat painting

Sd/- Joint Director (Animal Husbandry).

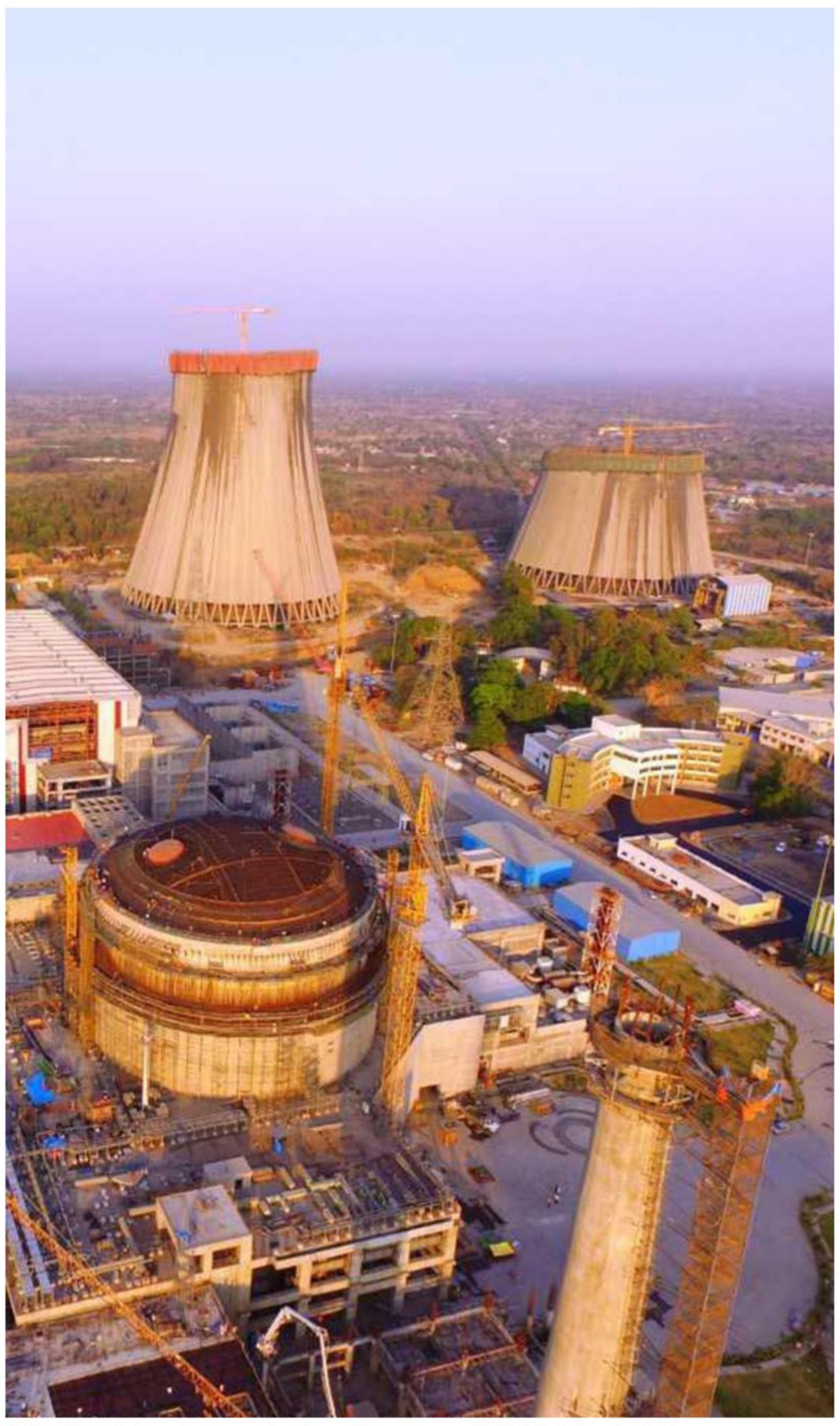
FROM THE ARCHIVES

What are the ambiguities in India's nuclear liability law?

What are the provisions of the Indian nuclear liability law? What does it say about supplier liability in the event of a nuclear accident? Why do some provisions in the law continue to make foreign companies wary?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
As per a Reuters reports, India is reportedly planning to ease its nuclear liability laws, with respect to accident-related fines on equipment suppliers, in order to attract more U.S. firms which have been holding back due to the risk of unlimited exposure.



Easing laws: A view of a Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) in Gujarat in 2017. FILE PHOTO

What is the law governing nuclear liability in India?

Laws on civil nuclear liability ensure that compensation is available to the victims for nuclear damage caused by a nuclear incident or disaster and set out who will be liable for those damages. The international nuclear liability regime consists of multiple treaties and was strengthened after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident. The umbrella Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) was adopted in 1997 with the aim of establishing a minimum national compensation amount. The amount can further be increased through public funds (to be made available by the contracting parties), should the national amount be insufficient to compensate the damage caused by a nuclear incident.

Even though India was a signatory to the CSC, Parliament ratified the convention only in 2016. To keep in line with the international convention, India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) in 2010, to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident. The CLNDA provides for strict and no-fault liability on the operator of the nuclear plant, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part. It also specifies the amount the operator will have to shell out in case of damage caused by an accident at ₹1,500 crore and requires the operator to cover liability through insurance or other financial security. In case the damage claims exceed ₹1,500 crore, the CLNDA expects the government to step in and has limited the government liability amount to the rupee equivalent of 300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or about ₹2,100 to ₹2,300 crore. The Act also specifies the limitations on the amount and time when action for compensation can be brought against the operator.

India currently has 22 nuclear reactors with over a dozen more projects planned. All the existing reactors are operated by the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

What does the CLNDA say on supplier liability?

The international legal framework on civil nuclear liability, including the annex of the CSC is based on the central principle of exclusive liability of the operator of a nuclear installation and no other person. In the initial stages of the nuclear industry's development, foreign governments and the industry agreed that excessive liability claims against suppliers of nuclear equipment would make their business unviable and hinder the growth of nuclear energy, and it became an accepted practice for national laws of countries to channel nuclear liability to the operators of the plant with only some exceptions. Two other points of rationale were also stated while accepting the exclusive operator liability principle – one was to avoid legal complications in establishing separate liability in each case and the second was to make just one entity in the chain, that is the operator to take out insurance, instead of having suppliers, construction contractors and so on take out their own insurance.

Section 10 of the annex of the CSC lays down "only" two conditions under which the national law of a country may provide the operator with the "right of recourse", where they can extract liability from the supplier – one, if it is expressly agreed upon in the contract or two, if the nuclear incident "results from an act or omission done with intent to cause damage".

However, India, going beyond these two conditions, for the first time introduced the concept of supplier liability over and above that of the operator's in its civil nuclear liability law, the CLNDA. The architects of the law recognised that defective parts were partly responsible for historical incidents such as the Bhopal gas tragedy in 1984 and added the clause on supplier liability. So, apart from the contractual right of recourse or when "intent to cause damage" is established, the CLNDA has a Section 17(b) which states that the operator of the nuclear plant, after paying their share of compensation for damage in accordance with the Act, shall have the right of recourse where the "nuclear incident has resulted as a consequence of an act of supplier or his employee, which includes supply of equipment or material with patent or latent defects or sub-standard services".

Why is the supplier liability clause an issue in nuclear deals?

Foreign suppliers of nuclear equipment from countries as well as domestic suppliers have been wary of operationalising nuclear deals with India as it has the only law where suppliers can be asked to pay damages. Concerns about potentially getting exposed to unlimited liability under the CLNDA and ambiguity over how much insurance to set aside in case of damage claims have been sticking points for suppliers.

Suppliers have taken issue with two specific provisions in the law, Section 17(b) and Section 46.

The latter clause goes against the Act's central purpose of serving as a special mechanism enforcing the channelling of liability to the operator to ensure prompt compensation for victims. Section 46 provides that nothing would prevent proceedings other than those which can be brought under the Act, to be brought against the operator. This is not uncommon, as it allows criminal liability to be pursued where applicable. However, in the absence of a comprehensive definition on the types of 'nuclear damage' being notified by the Central Government, Section 46 potentially allows civil liability claims to be brought against the operator and suppliers through other civil laws such as the law of tort. While liability for operators is capped by the CLNDA, this exposes suppliers to unlimited amounts of liability.

What are existing projects in India?

The Jaitapur nuclear project has been stuck for more than a decade – the original MoU was signed in 2009. In 2016, Électricité de France (EDF) and NPCIL signed a revised MoU, and in 2018, the heads of both signed an agreement on the "industrial way forward" in the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. In 2020, the EDF submitted its techno-commercial offer for the construction of six nuclear power reactors but an EDF official told that the issue arising from India's nuclear liability law remains an item on the "agenda for both countries". Multiple rounds of talks have not yet led to a convergence on the issue. Other nuclear projects, including the nuclear project proposed in Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh, have also been stalled. Despite signing civil nuclear deals with a number of countries, including the U.S., France and Japan, the only foreign presence in India is that of Russia in Kudankulam – which predates the nuclear liability law.

What is the government's stand?

The central government has maintained that the Indian law is in consonance with the CSC till now. About Section 17(b), it said that the provision "permits" but "does not require" an operator to include in the contract or exercise the right to recourse.

However, legal experts have pointed out that a plain reading of Section 17 of the CLNDA suggests that Section 17(a), (b) and (c) are distinctive and separate, meaning even if the right to recourse against the supplier is not mentioned in the contract [as provided by Section 17 (a)], the other two clauses stand. This effectively means that the supplier can be sued if defective equipment was provided or if it can be established that the damage resulted from an act of intent. Besides, it would not be sound public policy if the NPCIL, a government entity, entered into a contract with a supplier and waived its right to recourse in the contract, despite the fact that the law provides for such recourse. Further, the Ministry of External Affairs had said that Parliament debates over the CLNDA had rejected amendments to include the supplier, and therefore the supplier cannot be liable under this kind of "class-action suit". However, private sector players were not convinced and experts point out that during a trial, what would be considered is what is enshrined in the statute and not what was discussed in Parliament.

This article was first published on April 26, 2023.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I want an updated draft by tomorrow

Do not put him in charge of this responsibility. He is still wet behind the ears

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'wet behind the ears'? (Sandeep Sinha, Ranchi)
This relatively old expression is mostly used in American English to refer to people who are green or inexperienced. 'Wet behind the ears' also carries with it the suggestion that the individual is rather young, and therefore, gullible – a naïve individual who can be easily duped or tricked into doing things. The expression is sometimes used to refer to someone who is new to a place. It is also possible to say, 'hardly dry behind the ears'.

I don't think it's a good idea to make Ranjit the project leader. He's hardly dry behind the ears.

When a baby emerges from its mother's womb, it is usually covered, from head to toe, with amniotic fluid – the water-like substance that protects the baby while it is in the womb. Some animals lick this fluid off their baby; others, let the baby dry themselves. One of the last places of a newborn to dry is a small spot behind each ear. If these spots continue to be wet, it means the animal is a newbie – and hence helpless to do anything on its own.

What does it mean when someone says, 'I want the painting to be completed by Wednesday'?
When you tell your painter that you want him to finish painting your house 'by' Wednesday, you are giving the man a deadline. You are giving him time between now and Wednesday to complete the task at hand. Wednesday is the last day he will be allowed to finish the job. He can, if he wishes to, complete the task before Wednesday; but the painting work will not be allowed to continue after Wednesday. The deadline for completing the task is Wednesday. Of course, deadlines mean very little in our country! They are seldom met!

The boss wants the repairs to be carried out by the 25th.

What is the difference between 'murder' and 'assassinate'? (L. Manivel, Erode)
In the eyes of the law, whether you 'murder' someone or 'assassinate' someone, you end up performing an illegal act – if caught, you could end up getting the death penalty. In both cases, you plan and intentionally take someone's life; the planning and execution of it is carried out in a cold-blooded fashion. One does not 'assassinate' or 'murder' someone accidentally.

When famous individuals are killed, especially for political reasons, it is called an assassination. For example, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Benazir Bhutto, and Martin Luther King Jr. were all assassinated. If someone were to shoot and kill lesser-known mortals like you and me, the media would label it 'murder'. In the word 'assassinate', the stress is on the second syllable - e-SASS-i-nate'.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The World Test Championship (WTC) cycle of 2023-25 just got over with South Africa winning a memorable final at the Lord's on June 11. A quiz on the cycle

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Who not only scored the most runs but also scored the most centuries in the WTC Cycle of 2023-25?

QUESTION 2
Who is the only player to score a triple hundred during this cycle?

QUESTION 3
Who took the most number of wickets in the WTC Cycle of 2023-25?

QUESTION 4
Who is the only bowler to have taken 10+ wickets in a Test match twice in the cycle?

QUESTION 5
Which bowler had to face the ignominy of conceding more than 150 runs in an innings three times during the cycle?

QUESTION 6
Which wicket keeper holds the distinction of having effected most dismissals during the cycle?

QUESTION 7
Which two Indian cricketers shared the highest partnership of 199 runs for the seventh wicket during the cycle?

QUESTION 8
After 52 years, a rare occurrence happened in the second Test at Multan held between Pakistan and England in October 2024 with two bowlers picking up all 20 opposition wickets. Who are the two bowlers?

Visual question:
This player made his debut in the WTC cycle of 2023-25. Within 11 Test matches, he took five wickets in each innings and 12 wickets in his debut Test at Lord's. GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The reason why June 16 was important to Joyce. **Ans: It is the date of his first sexual encounter with Nora Barnacle, his wife-to-be**
2. Part I and III of the *Ulysses*. **Ans: Telemachia and Nostos**
3. The working title of *Ulysses*. It was originally focused on this character. **Ans: 'Stephen Hero' and Stephen Dedalus**
4. Name episode 15 of *Ulysses*. **Ans: 'Circe'**
5. Bloom's breakfast. **Ans: Grilled mutton kidneys**
6. This song features in both Bloom's and Molly's memories. **Ans: 'Love's Old Sweet Song'**
Visual: This Paris-based publisher first printed *Ulysses*. **Ans: Sylvia Beach's Shakespeare and Company**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Sadia Najam

Word of the day

Taunt:
harass with persistent criticism

Synonyms: bait, tantalise, tease

Usage: *He loves to taunt new employees.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tauntpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tɔ:nt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

B-SMILE all set to call tenders for N-S twin tunnel corridor

If everything goes as per plan, tunnel roads to be ready by 2029-30; toll estimated to be ₹19/km

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), the recently formed special purpose vehicle, is all set to call global tenders for the North-South twin tunnel corridor between Hebbal and Silk Board. This follows the approval for a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model with 40% Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from the government to be adopted to build tunnel roads in the city on June 5.

If everything goes according to plan, the twin tunnel roads will be open to the public by 2029-30 and the toll on these roads is estimated to cost ₹19/km and will be tolled by the companies that invest and build these roads for the next 30 years.

This corridor will be 16.74 km long and is expected to cost ₹17,780 crore.

The VGF for this corridor will be ₹9,303 crore. The State Cabinet has already agreed to stand as a guarantor for a loan of ₹19,000 crore towards VGF for North-South and East-West tunnel roads. B-SMILE is in talks with lending agencies, including Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), a Government of India undertaking, which is also funding the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).

North-South corridor of tunnel roads

- Esteem Mall (Hebbal) to Silk Board **16.74 km**
- Twin tunnels of 3 lane width each, next to each other. Total length of tunnelling required - **33.48 km**
- Work to be completed in **50 months** (4 years, 2 months) to be ready by 2029-30
- Estimated cost: **₹17,780 crore**
- To be built under Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model with **40%** Viability Gap Funding (VGF) from the government
- VGF for North-South corridor: **₹9,303 crore**, loan to be raised and State government to stand guarantee
- Company that invests and builds the road to collect toll for next **30 years** to recover investment
- Estimated toll **₹19/km**
- Work to be divided into two packages of roughly **8.4 km each**
- **North package** Hebbal to Racecourse Road
- **South package** Racecourse Road to Silk Board
- Toll collection to be completely automated using number plate recognition software, to be paid in two stages as two companies will own and operate the North-South corridor

Work to be split

With the past experience of PRR estimated to cost ₹27,000 crore not attracting any bidders in multiple global tenders, B-SMILE has decided to split the North-South twin tunnel corridor into two packages of roughly around 8.4 km each - North package from Hebbal to Racecourse Road and South package from Racecourse Road to Silk Board.

Two companies will bid and start building these tunnels at two ends simultaneously, which will also ensure the tunnels are ready faster. The tender, likely to be called soon after the government's approval, will fix a 50-month (four years two months) deadline for the completion of the project, said B.S. Prahlad, Technical Director, B-SMILE.

Toll estimate

A commuter will pay toll in two stages and toll collection will be completely automated through number plate recognition software, said Mr. Prahlad. "As per current estimates, the toll will be around ₹19 per km. Since this will be collected after five years, this is not high, and factoring in inflation, it will be comparable to other tolls elsewhere at that date," he argued.

Twin tunnels

The project involves building two unconnected tunnels for each direction of traffic next to each other, each three lanes wide. This essentially means the total length of earth to be tunnelled for the North-South corridor is 33.48 km. Sources said at least eight tunnel boring machines will be deployed simultaneously to speed up work. Each machine is capable of tunnelling 2 km per year, sources said.

Poor turnout at mela draws the ire of mango farmers

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

A video grab of mango farmers protesting at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden over the weekend against the Mango Board and Horticulture Department.

Mango mela in Lalbagh Botanical Garden has always been a much-awaited event for mango lovers in Bengaluru as well as farmers. But this year, farmers have resorted to throwing away the fruits and dumping them in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) compactors as a sign of protest alleging poor publicity for the event which led to fewer footfall.

Mango mela is organised by the Horticulture Department and the Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC) every year to provide customers a chance to buy directly from mango farmers. This year, the mela was inaugurated on May 30 and is coming to an end on June 23. While the duration of the mela is three weeks in total, farmers, who have set up around 80 stalls, say that very few consumers have turned up this year.

"Mango Board organised mango mela this year and gave it zero publicity. Now farmers are facing huge losses. We are throwing away fruits which could have otherwise brought us money. They have put on a show for the sake of it, but failed to inform anyone about it," said Bhaskara, a mango farmer from Kolar district.

The farmers threatened to stage a protest against the Horticulture Department if steps were not taken to publicise the event and bring in more business. "Unlike all the previous years, this year we see no publicity nor footfall. We take care of our mangoes like children from the flowering stage till they ripen and now, because of the neglect of the government, we are facing such losses. We already lost tonnes of fruits to weather vagaries this year and now this," said Jagadish Reddy, another mango farmer.

Officials of the Horticulture Department acknowledged that the footfall was less than the previous years but denied any claims of not publicising the event.

"We have given announcements in the media and radio about the mango mela. The problem this time was the quality of fruits and the availability of mangoes everywhere in the city. In places like Jayamahal Road, there are so many seller stalls that it almost feels like a mela in itself. The farmers, understandably considering their logistical costs, fix their own prices which are slightly higher than the prices in other mango stalls. That combined with rain resulted in slightly less footfall," explained Ramesh. D.S., director, Horticulture Department.

Mango farmers have been protesting for a few days now especially after the prices of totapuri variety fell to as little as ₹4 per kg. They have been demanding support price from the government.

"Mango farmers are suffering so much this year and the Horticulture Minister is nowhere to be seen. The government has managed to break the back of the farmers, who are called the backbone of the nation. First there was no support price and now this is the state of mango mela. We will have to take up huge protests if our demands are not met," said Neelaturu Chinnappa Reddy, president, president, Kolar District Mango Growers' Association.

BBMP demolishes parts of 12 buildings for violating norms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Monday demolished parts of 12 buildings that allegedly violated building bylaws in the Yelahanka zone.

Various constituencies

In Yelahanka Assembly Constituency, civic officials pulled down one additional floor in five buildings. These buildings had built one floor in addition to what was permitted. Of these, two buildings were 'B' khata properties.

Similarly, in Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency, civic officials demolished one additional floor in three buildings, two floors in another building.

Owners of two more buildings have given an undertaking that they themselves will demolish additional floors.

Strict warning given

Karigowda, Zonal Commissioner, Yelahanka, said that a strict warning has been issued to all property owners that they must not deviate from the approved building plans.

"Any violations will result in demolition of the unauthorised structures and imposition of penalties," he said.

'Cong. will not politicise plane crash'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar visited the accident spot on Saturday along with AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge

Accusing the Opposition BJP and JD(S) of doing 'politics over dead bodies', Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that the Congress would not politicise the plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar lamented that many plane passengers were charred to death and many medical students staying in the hostel were injured owing to the plane crash. Mr. Shivakumar who visited the accident spot on Saturday along with AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge to offer condolences, said if the plane had accidentally gone 500 m ahead and crashed, thousands of lives would have been lost. A few medical students were mentally traumatised, he said. When asked if questions were being raised about the performance of the Aviation Minister, he said, "The job of BJP and JD (S) is to do politics over dead bodies. We will not stoop to their level. There are many technical aspects in this matter. I am not an expert on them. All these issues are being discussed. But I am not the person to politicise this issue. At this time, I will not criticise the Minister. This is a serious matter for the country."

Judge dies of cardiac arrest

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Third Additional Senior Civil Judge of the Kalaburagi District Court Vishwanath V. Mugathi on Monday died in his court chamber following a cardiac arrest.

The 44-year-old judge, after developing severe chest pain during court proceedings, went to his chamber where he collapsed.

He was rushed to SJICSR hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Labourer clubbed to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old labourer was allegedly clubbed to death by his friend during a drunken brawl in Doddaballapur on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Vijay Kumar, from Malur. He was working as a daily wage labourer at Jal Jeevan Mission near Nandi Hills, where the accused Pujappa, 35, was also working.

Case registered

The Doddaballapur rural police have registered a case of murder and taken the accused into custody.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

NCFE is inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of suitable agency to conduct a Nationwide Financial Literacy and Inclusion Survey. Interested companies may submit their response with all the necessary documents on or before **16th July 2025** by **16:00 hrs**. The RFP document may be downloaded from NCFE's website **www.ncfe.org.in/tenders**

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any, will be published at www.ncfe.org.in

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JUN. 17	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:47
RISE 23:42	SET 11:01
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 18	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:47
RISE 00:00	SET 11:53
THURSDAY, JUN. 19	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:48
RISE 00:22	SET 12:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

EP ratio points to migration and decline in birth rate

Assessment of the birth rate comes after the Election Commission found the EP ratio in several districts far higher than the State or the national average; while the current State ratio is 70.16, the national figure is 66.76 (as of February 2024)

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Election Commission of India (ECI) data could be showing the stark reality of the issues of declining births and migration to urban areas in Karnataka. The electoral list available for the State is showing that some districts are reporting a sharp decline in the birth rate, or migration which has been reflected in the elector-population (EP) ratio.

The assessment of the birth rate came after the Election Commission found the EP ratio in several districts far higher than the State or the national average. While the current State ratio is 70.16, the national ratio is 66.76 (as of February 2024).

The EP ratio is the total number of registered voters against the projected population since the 2011 Census.

The trend has continued after the EP ratio was initially noticed during the final electoral roll ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. The latest publication of the final electoral roll was in January 2025.

Chikkamagaluru where the EP ratio was found to be the highest in the State with 85.84 was a case example for the Election Commission, which after a study found that the birth rate in the Malnad district was far too low.

"Chikkamagaluru district has fewer people below the age of 18," Election Commission sources said.

The data available on the ground for the electoral list was juxtaposed with other available data from the PDS database (ration card), the National Sample Survey, and the National Family Health Survey to see if there was any mismatch or anomalies.

"It was realised that in Chikkamagaluru, the population growth had come down owing to fewer births. The number of newborns is low, which could mean negative population growth," sources said.

The final electoral roll of 2025 showed that Chikkamagaluru district had 9.73 lakh voters, including 4.95 lakh female voters. The district has four Assembly constituencies – Chikkamagaluru, Mudigere, Tarikere, and Sringeri. Incidentally, Sringeri is the smallest Assembly constituency in terms of voters in the State with 1.68 lakh.

Across Karnataka, of the nearly 5.5 crore voters, 2.75 crore are males and 2.76 crore females, besides 5,095 belonging to the third gender.

The 'abnormal' EP ratio is not restricted to Chikkamagaluru district alone. Other districts include Kodagu (84.25) and Udupi (83.07). The Vokkaliga heartland districts of Mandya (83.72), Hassan (82.82), Bengaluru South (formerly Ramanagara) (82.75), and Tumakuru (81.78) have a high EP ratio too.

The Vokkaliga-dominated districts also report a high level of migration owing to their proximity to Bengaluru where employment opportunities are higher.

"This means that these districts have mostly an adult population with fewer kids. A picture on these will emerge with the General Census data," sources said.

In some instances, a higher EP ratio may also reflect a good work in registration of voters, a politically-aware population, and also migration.

Gender gap

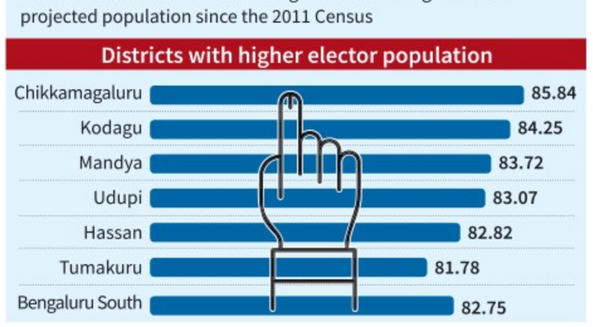
Another feature found during the electoral rolls revision was that though the overall gender ratio for Karnataka voters was 1,003 [more female voters], the gender ratio among the young electors [18-19 years] was 892. However, the gender ratio that was 819 in the 2024 draft roll has increased to 892 in the 2025 final roll.

ECI officials who studied the gender ratio in the zero to five years category found that the birth rate had a gap, which could also show a bias against girls. This was seen in districts such as Kalaburagi and Yadgir, sources said. There could be a lower number of young women registered in the electoral roll too, sources said.

Voting matters

- Projected population of Karnataka considered by Election Commission: **7.86 crore**
- Total registered electors: **5.52 crore**
- Karnataka's elector-population ratio: **70.16**
- India's elector–population ratio: **66.76** (February 2024)

*EP ratio is the total number of registered voters against the projected population since the 2011 Census



This seat has highest ratio

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chamundeshwari constituency in Mysuru district has the highest elector-population (EP) ratio among the Assembly constituencies in the State. The ratio in Chamundeshwari has been pegged at 97.94 followed by the neighbouring Narasimharaja constituency at 88.06.

Across Karnataka, 15 constituencies have a EP ratio higher than 85, while 24 constituencies have a EP ratio between 80 and 85.

BTM Layout has lowest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BTM Layout Assembly constituency has the lowest elector-population ratio in the State at 46.31, followed by Rajajinagar constituency at 47.28, C.V. Raman Nagar at 48.62, Mahalakshmi Layout at 48.99, and Gandhinagar at 49.07.

Overall, BBMP central has a EP ratio of 52.94, BBMP North has 54.93, and BBMP South has 51.78. Traditionally, the constituencies in the BBMP limits are also those that record poor voter turnout when compared to turnout across the State.

Rains in Malnad and coastal regions claim three lives

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/MANGALURU /MYSURU/BELAGAVI

Heavy rains that lashed various districts, particularly those in the Malnad and the coastal regions, have claimed three lives, besides damaging houses.

The rains also threw normal life out of gear in these districts owing to falling of trees that disrupted power supply as well as traffic.

While the rains were widespread, the deaths were reported from the Malnad and the coastal regions.

A woman, aged about 100, died and three others suffered injuries, when a wall of a house collapsed at Adagadi in Shivamogga taluk early on Monday. Siddamma, a native of Konkava village in Nyamathi taluk of Davangere district, was on a visit to her relative's place. She died on the spot while her relative's daughter, son-in-law, and grandson suffered injuries.

In another incident, Anil Ruzario, 50, died after a tree branch fell on him near Elekallu on Chikkamagaluru-Balehonnur Road on Monday. The Fire and Emergency Services personnel and the police rushed him to the government hospital at Balehonnur.

However, the doctors declared him brought dead.

The downpour caused multiple landslides on the road connecting Sringeri and S.K. Border, forcing the Chikkamagaluru district administration to ban heavy vehicles on the stretch between Tanikod and S.K. Border till September 30. The administration has suggested an alternative route via Balehonnur-Magundi-Kalasa-Kudremukh for those driving heavy vehicles on the stretch.

Meanwhile, Ronald Fernandes, 52, a resident of Udyavara of Udupi district, was swept away in a swollen stream when he accidentally fell into it on Sunday. His body was recovered later.

While Dakshina Kannada received 102.9 mm rainfall as against the normal 36.8 mm from 8 a.m. of Sunday to 8 a.m. of Monday, Udupi received 162.9 mm as against the normal of 49.3 mm. Chitturu village in Udupi district received the State's highest rainfall of 274 mm.

Tragic end: The house where an elderly woman died following a wall collapse at Adagodi, near Kumsi, in Shivamogga taluk on Sunday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MP and wife were booked on ill-fated chopper that crashed

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A delegation of Members of Parliament, and their relatives, were booked to fly on the ill-fated helicopter that crashed in Kedarnath, Uttarkhand, on Sunday.

Eeranna Kadadi, Rajya Sabha member from Belagavi, and his wife were among those scheduled to visit the place. He was part of a parliamentary delegation.

Members of the delegation were booked in the ill-fated helicopter. However, some of the members could not come to the helipad on time, and they were told to go in the next trip.

The members boarded the next helicopter. The aircraft had taken off when they heard the news of the tragedy. The pilot landed the helicopter, and the members were informed that further trips were cancelled.

Mr. Kadadi said he thanked his family deity for saving his life and that of his wife Sumitra.

CM urged to make findings of 2015 caste census public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.K. Hariprasad, senior Congress leader and MLC, on Monday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to make public the findings of the 2015 caste census and expedite the process for the fresh enumeration of castes in Karnataka.

Speaking to reporters at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, he said the State government cannot dump the report of the 2015 Socio-Economic, Educational Survey (caste census). It was the responsibility of the government to make public the findings of the report, he said.

The report was tabled in the State Cabinet, but the findings have not been officially made public. Following the Congress high command directive, the Karnataka government has decided to conduct the fresh caste survey.

Noting that backward classes departments in States are eligible to conduct a caste census, Mr. Hariprasad said the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India is responsible for conducting the Census and managing the registration of births and deaths in the country. It was not responsible for doing the caste census to examine the socio-economic backwardness of various castes, he said.

The Central government on Monday issued a notification for conducting India's 16th Census with caste enumeration in 2027.

Plaint against man for post on PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H. Venkatesh Dodderi, BJP State spokesperson, on Monday filed a complaint with the North Division cyber crime police against a person for posting comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Dodderi, in his complaint, said that the accused, identified as Hadimani T.F., posted on his social media account content demeaning the Prime Minister and also shared morphed photos. The accused had also termed Mr. Modi as "actor and theatre person".

The post also contains objectionable contents not only against the Prime Minister, but also against many Central Ministers, the complainant alleged.

This post will create disturbance in the society, the complainant said, requesting the police to take legal action,

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan,
Miller's Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS STUDYING AT IIT, IIIT, NIT, IIM, IISER, AIIMS,NLU, INI & IUSLA, Etc. FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Online Application

Online applications are invited for the students of minority community of the Karnataka State who are studying in the prestigious institutions such as IIT, IIIT, NIT, IIM, IISER, AIIMS, NLU, INI & IUSLA etc. which have got statutory permission from the government, to avail the one-time incentive for the entire duration of the course.

Timeline

The Start Date for submission of online applications **13.06.2025.**
Last Date for submission of online applications starts from **30.09.2025.**

Eligibility

- The Student must belong of Karnataka State.
- Student who belong to minority communities (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi) may apply.
- Nature of course – Full time.
- Student must have cleared the previous year examinations without any backlogs.
- Student's annual family income should not exceed Rs.8.00 lakhs.
- Aadhaar seeding and NPCI mapping to bank account is mandatory to avail the scholarship.
- Eligibility conditions for pre-matric scholarship is subject to the Government orders and Guidelines issued by the government from time to time.

Instructions for Applicants

- Applicants are instructed to apply online for incentive through below link: **https://sevasindhu. karnataka.gov.in/ Sevasindhu/ DepartmentServices**

For further detailed instructions, eligibility criteria, and procedure please visit Directorate of Minorities official website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the nearest District/Taluk Minorities Information Centre (MICs).

Date: 13.06.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1266/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Sanjay Kumar being the absolute owner of the by property bearing Assessment No. 35/31/26, PID No. 6841859182, Situated at Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Tq and Dist, measuring 2843sq ft approached CIFCL for the Home Loan and anyone have any objection on the said property shall contact with documents to the undersigned within 7 days.

Advocate:
Praveen Kumar
7337813215

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the Schedule Property from **(1) Mr. VIJAYA REDDY** S/o. Pilla Reddy **(2) Mr. S P SURESH** S/o. Pilla Reddy and **(3) Mrs. JAYALAKSHMI** W/o Late Shamanna Reddy who are the absolute owners in possession and enjoyment of the Schedule property. Therefore, if anybody claiming Hindu Undivided Family, a company, bank(s), financial Institution(s), non-banking financial Institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of Individuals whether Incorporated or not, lender(s) and/or creditor(s) having any benefits, objections, demands or rights or Interest whatsoever in respect of the said property or any part thereof by way of Inheritance, sale, transfer, share, mortgage, pledge, licenses, charge, lease, assignment, tenancy, gift, exchange, encumbrance, family arrangement/settlement, bequest, succession, maintenance, possession, family, decree or order of any court of law, contracts/ agreements, development rights, partnership, right of way, Lis-pendens, reservation, contracts / agreements, memorandum of understanding, agreement for sale, power of attorney, option, FSI consumption, right of first refusal, pre-emption or any liberty or any commitment or otherwise of whatsoever nature is hereby required to intimate the same in writing, along with supporting documents to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice of such claim, failing which the any such rights, entitlement, interest, benefit, claim, demand and/or objection, if any, of such person(s)/entity shall be deemed to be knowingly abandoned. waived or

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agriculture land bearing Survey Number 109/1, measuring an extent of **2 Acres 21 Guntas** Situated in Thiruvaranga Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on,
EAST BY: Road
WEST BY: Land bearing Survey number 105
NORTH BY: Land bearing Survey number 110
SOUTH BY: Land bearing Survey number 109/2

ADVOCATE
(GR SANTHOSH)
SH LAW ASSOCIATES, No.41, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, Maruthi Extension, Vyalikaval, Bangaluru-560 003, Cell Ph:9844637465

DIRECTORATE OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND SCERT : ODISHA : BHUBANESWAR
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Notice No. 3637 Date : 13.06.25

With reference to the Pre-Bid Meeting held on 12.06.2025, the Corrigendum in respect of RFP - I and II with reference to the Tender Call Notice No. 3348 dated 03.06.2025 is hereby modified. The Corrigendum (Annexure-I) is published in the website i.e. **www.scertodisha.nic.in** for reference.

Last Date for submission of Tender Document : 25.06.2025 (05.00 p.m.)
Opening of Technical Bid : 26.06.2025 (11.00 a.m.)
followed by presentation by the firms and opening of Financial Bid.

Director,
TE and SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

n-72 OIPR-27006/11/0015/2526

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Byatarayanapura Division, Bengaluru - 560092.

No: EE/BTP/BBMP/KPPP/05/2025-26 Date: 16-06-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Work detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-01)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
	SINGLE COVER TENDER
1	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in Thanisandra Sub Division. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications: **21-06-2025 upto 4.00 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No. 2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **23-06-2025 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4)** Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer on 24-06-2025 at 16.05 Hours (if possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, BBMP.

TAMIL NADU URBAN HABITAT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Government of Tamil Nadu
No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600005, Tamil Nadu, India.

Invitation for Bids No: IRSHUPSP/NCB/06

ADB Loan No. and Project Title : 4106-IND: Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Sector Project in Tamil Nadu.

Contract No. and Title: IRSHUPSP/GRE/06, Construction of 283 tenements (PS+9 floors) with development works at 29, Greams Road Insitu scheme in Greater Chennai Corporation Division. No - 111, Zone-IX at Chennai District.

The Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board ("the Employer") invites bids from eligible bidders for the contract package named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

1. Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (IFB) and the Bid document for above package would be available at www.tntenders.gov.in starting from **17.06.2025.** Deadline for bid submission is **16:00 hours on 17.07.2025.** All required information are provided in the bid document.
2. Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting will be held at **14:00 hours** on **02.07.2025.** All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
3. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the www.tntenders.gov.in web site and will not be published in Newspapers.
4. Bidders may contact Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, TNUHDB for any other information on bidding process.

DIPR/3052/TENDER/2025 **Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit**

People gather near a lifeboat, believed to be from the cargo ship *MV Wan Hai 503,* at Paravur in Alappuzha. SURESH ALLEPPEY

Container, lifeboat wash ashore on Alappuzha coast

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

An official says the container will be brought ashore by a salvage team and handed over to the Customs Dept.

Coastal areas in Alappuzha are on alert after a container and a lifeboat, believed to be from the cargo ship *mv Wan Hai 503*, washed ashore at Kakkazhom and Paravur, respectively, on Monday.

Officials said the container was found by residents around 5.30 a.m. It was said to be empty. The lifeboat, which drifted ashore, caught the attention of the residents around 9 p.m. on Sunday.

In both cases, the people immediately informed the police and the District Disaster Management Authority. The lifeboat was later shifted to a safe location on the shore. It has "Wan Hai 503 Singapore" written on it.

District administration officials visited the sites, and said the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and the shipping company had been informed of the finds.

The container will be brought ashore by a salvage team and handed over to the Customs Department, an official said.

The container ship caught fire at sea off the Kannur coast on June 9 following an explosion. Officials said more containers were expected to drift ashore along the Alappuzha, Kollam and Ernakulam coasts in the coming days. The people are advised to stay away from any suspicious object found on the coast.

The KSDMA has urged people to maintain a distance of at least 200 m from such objects and report them by calling the emergency number 112. The alert has been issued as some of the containers reportedly contain hazardous cargo.

Socio-economic survey serves social justice: Karnataka CM

Defending the fresh survey being taken up in the State after objections to the earlier exercise from all sections of society, he says the caste census announced by the Centre is of a different nature

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Maintaining that the Centre's proposed caste survey is not a socio-economic and educational survey, which, according to him, is needed to initiate measures for social justice, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has defended the State government's decision to conduct a fresh caste census.

Speaking to presspersons in Davangere on Monday, the Chief Minister said that the fresh socio-educational and economic survey has been taken up as there have been objections to the previous survey from all sections of the society.

The CM says knowing the socio-economic status of communities is necessary to deliver social justice. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the general census being taken by the Union government is different from the socio-educational, economic census being conducted by the State government. "Knowing the socio-economic status of the communities is necessary to provide social justice and that's why the caste census is being conducted now," he said. He further clarified that the State government has no qualms about the census of the Union government.

"It is different from our socio-economic census. Moreover, the Centre has not said anything on conducting a socio-economic census. We are conducting a caste census along with the socio-economic census," he said.

'Re-survey is a must'

"Moreover, as per Section 11(1) of the Backward Classes Commission Act, after the expiry of 10 years of a report, a re-survey should be conducted. That is why re-survey has been ordered," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

KTR questioned for 8 hours by ACB

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao's eight-hour appearance before the Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday over the ₹54 crore Formula-E deal turned Banjara Hills into a high-security zone, fuelling speculation of arrest and forcing authorities to lock down key areas.

The questioning began in the morning at 10 a.m.

K.T. Rama Rao

Sources said that KTR was grilled about the nature of the financial transactions.

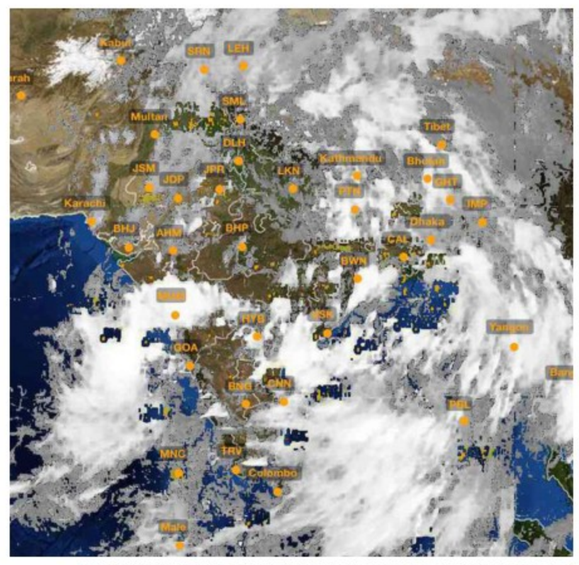
He was also directed to submit all mobile phones he used between 2021 and 2023. "The phones are asked to be submitted as part of the investigation," said an officer from the ACB. When asked about his next summons, the officer said that the bureau will now analyse his answers and formulate it before taking further calls on the probe.

Speaking to presspersons at the party office after his appearance before the ACB, Mr. Rama Rao alleged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy wants to send him to jail for his sadistic pleasure. "Since he went to jail in a note-for-vote case, he is attempting to put me in jail," he alleged.

He further alleged that Mr. Reddy is trying to escape from fulfilling poll promises by diverting public attention with such cases. An FIR was registered against Mr. Rama Rao on December 19, 2024, in relation to suspected irregularities in the planning and execution of the Formula-E event held in 2023.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13	34.6	26.8	Kozhikode	83	28.6	22.5
Ahmedabad	1	37.3	27.0	Kurnool	—	33.6	25.5
Aizawl	18.1	29.6	21.8	Lucknow	—	35.7	29.0
Allahabad	—	39.0	26.5	Madurai	—	36.0	26.5
Bengaluru	0.1	27.1	20.0	Mangaluru	226	25.4	22.5
Bhopal	—	37.5	26.8	Mumbai	86	28.3	25.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.6	25.4	Mysuru	—	28.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	37.4	28.0	New Delhi	—	35.0	29.0
Chennai	—	34.8	28.2	Patna	—	38.6	30.7
Coimbatore	0.1	28.2	21.2	Port Blair	1.3	31.0	26.4
Dehradun	65.2	34.8	22.2	Puducherry	—	34.6	26.4
Gangtok	0.7	25.2	18.1	Pune	46.5	25.2	22.4
Goa	65	31.6	24.8	Raipur	0.6	35.5	26.0
Guwahati	43	30.5	25.5	Ranchi	—	34.5	24.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	14	24.0	18.6
Hyderabad	—	31.4	22.6	Shimla	12	30.2	17.8
Imphal	8.2	26.7	24.0	Srinagar	—	25.2	19.4
Jaipur	11	35.9	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	43	29.3	22.6
Kochi	67	30.4	23.6	Tiruchi	—	36.1	26.0
Kohima	12	26.9	20.3	Vijayawada	—	36.0	26.0
Kolkata	7.8	35.0	27.2	Visakhapatnam	0.8	33.6	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	..32	34	 75	57	
Bengaluru	.11	3	18	 28	...114	
Chennai	...9	..18	60	 63	52	
Delhi	.20	..34	42	... 183	...136	
Hyderabad	...8	..26	29	... 317	.....—	
Kolkata	...3	..50	20	 39	35	
Lucknow	...6	..40	21	 73	...120	
Mumbai	.28	..66	29	..... —	59	
Pune	..—	..52	77	 29	28	
Visakhapatnam	.23	..62	27	 47	67	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 203 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Raining on the parade

Standing their ground: Women police constables taking part in the passing-out parade amid heavy rain at the Kerala Police Academy in Thrissur on Monday. A total of 144 women constables completed their training at the academy. K.K.NAJEEB

Rivals spar over key issues as bypoll campaign nears end in Nilambur

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the campaigning for the high-stakes Nilambur Assembly byelection in Kerala set to conclude on Tuesday, the opposing fronts offered voters starkly different views of the second Pinarayi Vijayan government.

Their campaigns waged exhaustive battles over human-wildlife conflict, the crippling wildlife raids on farmlands, the cratering of the agrarian economy, the "election-eve" distribution of social welfare pensions, the "shoddy" development of National Highway 66, and the "abandoned" LIFE housing mission for homeless people.

LDF candidate M. Swaraj addressing a reception in Nilambur earlier this month. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Even as they sparred over courting communal forces for votes, the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) said almost in the same breath on Monday that neither the Bharatiya Janata Party nor the Independent candidacy of P.V. Anvar would have any impact on the byelection.

Notably, the UDF's "acceptance" of the allegedly radical Jamaat-e-Islami support continued to dominate the political narrative in Nilambur, even as the opposing campaigns intensified their door-to-door efforts to ensure voter turnout.

The Jamaat factor

Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary M.V. Govindan alleged that the UDF's desperation to court the Jamaat-e-Islami stems from the fact that the LDF's good governance had rendered the Opposition's campaign toothless.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the fight was between the LDF and the UDF. The outcome of the election would relegate others in the fray to also-rans. He accused the CPI(M) of raising the bogey of communalism citing Jamaat-e-Islami's support for the UDF.

Entrepreneur pledges ₹6 cr. to medical students' kin

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

UAE-based entrepreneur Shamsheer Vayalil has expressed sorrow over the death of four medical students in last week's Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad and pledged ₹6 crore to support their families and others affected by the tragedy.

In a post on X, Dr. Vayalil, founder and chairman of VPS Healthcare, a multinational healthcare group, mourned the loss of the students – Manav, Aaryan, Rakesh, and Jaiprakash – describing them as "future frontline heroes".

Karnataka High Court refuses to quash cheating case against U.S.-based businessman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash criminal proceedings initiated against the head of a U.S.-based company, AKON Inc., based on the charge sheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for allegedly cheating the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) by supplying incomplete Voltage Controlled Oscillator-based Radio Frequency (RF) generators in 2009.

Petition rejected

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting the petition filed by

Surya Sareen, then president and CEO of AKON Inc., U.S. On the contention of the petitioner that there was delay in lodging a complaint, conduct of investigation and filing of charge sheet, the court said that the delay in the present case, which involved a global tender and the successful tenderer allegedly cheated the DRDO, had been explained as it involved investigation acts done by overseas company.

Also, the court declined to accept petitioner's contention that it was a civil dispute. "The case at hand is a classic illustration of *prima facie* offence of Sections 420 and 120B of the India Penal Code against the petitioner and the entire issue revolves round a maze of facts, certain disputed and certain matters on record. Therefore, interference at this stage of the proceedings, would run foul of the judgment of the apex court...," the court said.

Certain complaints emerged in 2012 about the components supplied in 2009 by AKON to DRDO's Defence Avionics Research Establishment (DARE), and an internal inquiry revealed that non-working dummy units were supplied.

Following this, the issue was referred to the CBI, which initially conducted a preliminary inquiry and later registered a first information report (FIR) and filed charge sheet in 2022.

In the charge sheet, the CBI alleged that AKON shipped 35 incomplete units in February-March 2009 and received 90% payment amounting to ₹1.72 crore.

The agency alleged that Priya Suresh N., the then Scientist-D of DARE, in conspiracy with the company, accepted the units which were not functional.

The CBI alleged on Ms. Suresh's recommendation, 24 units were sent back to AKON within weeks on the pretext of upgrade/repair and the rest remained unused and untested till July 2011.

However, she had recommended for payment of the balance amount to the vendor by falsely stating that the units were working satisfactorily despite the fact that she had earlier reported that the units were not working.

Mob lynching: Bail plea of four accused rejected

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Finding material on record that *prima facie* showed involvement of petitioners in the mob lynching incident, a Mangaluru court rejected the bail applications of four persons arrested in connection with the death of 38-year-old Ashraf near Kudupu on April 27.

"The material placed on record as of now indicates the involvement of the petitioners and the *prima facie* case against them. In view of the gravity and seriousness of the offence committed, this is not a fit case to exercise the discretion vested under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita," V.N. Jagadeesh, 2nd Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mangaluru, said in his June 12 order.

The application was filed by Saideep, Anil Kumar, Yathiraj and Adarsha Pandith, who were arrested and are accused No. 13, 16, 17 and 18 in the case of Ashraf's death.

After Ashraf reportedly raised slogans in support of Pakistan at a ground where a cricket match was on, players and members of the audience allegedly assaulted the ragpicker on the Batra Kallurti temple road in Kudupuon April 27. Following a complaint by the supervisor of the cricket tournament, the Mangaluru Rural police arrested 21 persons.

Escalation spiral

Global powers must persuade Israel to end its reckless war

Israel's unprovoked aggression against Iran has not only plunged West Asia into its gravest regional crisis since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war but also pushed the Jewish nation into an unprecedented security calamity. If Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expected the June 13 attack on Iran, hitting its nuclear facilities and assassinating its top generals and nuclear scientists, to cripple Tehran – like how Israel destroyed the Egyptian air force on June 5, 1967 during the Six-Day War – he appears to have made a mistake. Iran, in a swift and forceful response, rained ballistic missiles on Israeli cities. Until Monday morning, it had fired over 370 missiles, hitting an oil refinery in Haifa, a top research institute in Rehovot near Tel Aviv and even residential areas. At least 24 Israelis have been killed and over 500 wounded. While Israel has established air supremacy in Iran, it has not managed to destroy Iran's nuclear programme, which is dispersed and buried across the country. Israel keeps targeting Iran's military and intelligence leadership, with the aim of weakening the government. On Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu said regime change in Iran could be one of the outcomes of Israel's attack. But every time Israel hits Iran, Tehran fires dozens of ballistic missiles back. While Israel is trying to take escalation dominance, Iran is trying to establish deterrence through offence. The result is an escalation spiral.

Mr. Netanyahu should have carefully considered the consequences and avoided launching this reckless, illegal war. The Israeli attack came just days before the United States and Iran were to hold the sixth round of nuclear talks. The war has practically killed the possibility of a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis. This also raises questions about Israel's endgame. If Israel is not able to completely dismantle Iran's nuclear programme, it may, as Mr. Netanyahu has suggested, push for a state collapse or regime change in Tehran. Nobody knows what comes next. U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he is still open to a deal with Iran. But Mr. Trump wants Tehran to completely abandon its nuclear enrichment programme, which Iranian leaders are not ready to do – not yet. This deadlock only makes the conflict more dangerous. If the war drags on, the risk of U.S. involvement increases. And If Iran retaliates by bombing American bases in the Persian Gulf, shutting down the Strait of Hormuz or targeting tankers in the Gulf of Oman, it could trigger a security and economic catastrophe. This is another reason why a ceasefire between Iran and Israel is urgently needed. Global powers, particularly the U.S., Israel's chief patron, and Russia, an Iranian ally, must play a more proactive role in mediation and peacemaking. If Mr. Trump is really a man of peace, as he claims to be, this is his moment to take the lead in restoring order in West Asia.

Deserving winners

South Africa reached the summit in Tests after a history of failures

It was a long wait that culminated in delight. Until Saturday's high at Lord's, South Africa was often resigned to playing second fiddle in the big cricketing contests. The Proteas always had strong units and some great players, but a stumble in the climactic stages of ICC events became the norm. Finally, when Temba Bavuma's men prevailed over defending champion Australia in the World Test Championship's summit clash in London, many ghosts were laid to rest. South Africa's previous ICC silverware was the title in the Wills International Cup at Dhaka in 1998. That tournament became the precursor to the Champions Trophy and even as this particular event grew, South Africa regressed with comical run-outs, dropped catches and miscalculation of rain-rules often becoming steep hurdles. To concede a first innings lead and then to chase 282 in a grim fourth innings pursuit was never easy, but a dogged Bavuma and centurion Aiden Markram ensured that the early strikes of spearhead Kagiso Rabada were never wasted. The trio performed admirably and it was also a reflection of the diverse ethnic groups that constitute South Africa, often called the Rainbow Nation. This fact and the need for unity was reiterated through Bavuma's impassioned post-match speech. The skipper truly led from the front.

Cricket needed this result as whispers of the 'Big Three' of India, Australia and England, calling the shots and elbowing out other opposition in the overall scheduling have been doing the rounds. Besides applying salve to a country searching for cricketing glory, the South African triumph also revealed that other teams can acquire the champions' halo. To get past Pat Cummins and his men is always tough but Bavuma and his troops held firm in an engrossing Test. Australia has a potent attack that never allows batters to settle, and to counter this and emerge on top is a tribute to an outfit that was acutely conscious about past failures. Even last year, Markram's men slipped in the ICC T20 World Cup final against India. From being tagged as chokers and to then become the number one Test squad is a stupendous achievement. South Africa never had it easy in cricket as its previous apartheid policy rightly left it isolated from sport. The comeback was gradual from the 1990s and then the match-fixing crisis that consumed Hansie Cronje, was a mighty blow. To put all these setbacks and losses behind them needed a special effort and it was this that Bavuma and his men provided at cricket's spiritual home.

The war on Gaza, exposing Israel's hidden ambition

Abdullah M. Abu Shawesh

is the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of India

The discrepancy between Israel's declared goals for its war on Gaza and its actual actions is staggering. While Tel Aviv continues to repeat hollow slogans–returning hostages, dismantling Hamas, disarming Gaza–these narratives function more as propaganda tools aimed at securing international legitimacy than genuine military objectives.

For global media consumption and western political cover, these slogans serve to justify an onslaught now surpassing 612 days – one that has claimed the lives of over 54,000 civilians in direct bombardments, caused more than triple that number in injuries, unleashed mass destruction, led to near-total displacement, criminalized UN humanitarian agencies, and waged a war of starvation–just to name a few.

This propaganda machine has successfully framed the ongoing, televised slaughter campaign as a just response. Alarmingly, much of the western world has accepted and echoed this narrative – rationalising the live-streamed brutality unfolding in Gaza, where civilians are enduring what experts have identified as genocide.

The sinister reality, from seven decades ago

Initially, public discourse focused on Israel's stated objectives. More recently, attention shifted to the claim that the war exists primarily to save Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political career, preserving his coalition and shielding him from corruption charges. While these factors play a role, reducing this genocide to Mr. Netanyahu's survival obscures a far more sinister and enduring reality.

This war is a continuation of a long-term strategy to complete what David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding father, initiated in 1948 – the mass expulsion of the Palestinian people. Many Israelis chillingly refer to this as "finishing the job".

Among the vast majority of Israelis, there is a deeply rooted belief that Ben-Gurion missed a historic opportunity in 1948 by not expelling all Palestinians beyond the Jordan River. Today's military operations, along with mounting calls for mass expulsion represent efforts to finally "complete the job".

Israel's war is about 'finishing the job' — one that began in 1948

The expulsion of Palestinians is neither a new policy nor a hidden agenda. It is a foundational and repeatedly tested strategy of the Zionist project. The Nakba of 1948, when Zionist militias ethnically cleansed over 9,50,000 Palestinians, was not a tragic byproduct of war but a deliberate, meticulously planned act aimed at establishing a Jewish-majority state.

This strategy resurfaced in 1956 during the Sinai Campaign, when Israel briefly occupied Gaza. One key objective was the forced removal of Palestinian refugees from Gaza into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Although only partially executed due to Gazan resistance and international pressure, the intention was clear and well-documented. Israeli historian Avi Raz and others have demonstrated that the concept of "voluntary transfer" or engineered displacement was actively discussed by Israeli officials during and after the war. Ben-Gurion and other leaders viewed the 1956 war as a second opportunity to "finish the job".

This policy's continuity was exposed in a *Haaretz* investigative report dated December 5, 2024, titled "We Give Them 48 Hours to Leave: Israel's Plans to Transfer Gazans Go Back 60 Years". The article reveals that from the 1960s onward, Israeli officials quietly formulated policies aimed at reducing Gaza's Palestinian population – a central policy rather than a fringe idea.

A demographic engineering

On May 15, 2025, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reported that 7.4 million Palestinians – Muslims and Christians – now live in historic Palestine, equalling the Jewish population. Despite decades of Israeli policies aimed at boosting Jewish birth rates and displacing Palestinians, the demographic balance now favours the indigenous Palestinian population. From the Israeli perspective, this "demographic threat" is under constant scrutiny. The prospect of a Jewish minority ruling over a Palestinian majority is politically and morally untenable. To preserve its identity as a "Jewish state", Israel has increasingly relied on apartheid, violent expulsions, and demographic engineering.

On October 9, 2023, just two days after the war began, the Israeli government announced a special inter-ministerial committee tasked with facilitating the forced transfer of Palestinians from Gaza. It is no secret that Israeli officials have discussed relocating Palestinians to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula or even to African countries such as Rwanda and Uganda under the pretence of "voluntary resettlement" – a thin veil for forced population transfer, which constitutes a war crime under international law.

The concept of transforming Gaza's coast into a luxury zone devoid of Palestinians – the so-called "Middle East Riviera" – was openly proposed by United States President Donald Trump, whose real estate background shaped his vision of the region as prime beachfront property rather than a homeland for a dispossessed people. Under the guise of regional development, Mr. Trump's real estate proposal repackaged ethnic cleansing as economic opportunity. Mr. Netanyahu embraced this vision wholeheartedly, describing it as "the only viable plan to enable a different future for the region".

Deliberate erasure

The widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and life in Gaza cannot be explained by military necessity or any declared war aims. Entire neighbourhoods, homes, towers, roads, and sewage systems have been obliterated. Schools, universities, hospitals, and water infrastructure have been systematically targeted. Agricultural lands have been scorched. Starvation has been weaponised. Over 1,50,000 people have been killed or wounded, many of them civilians. Thousands more have died indirectly due to hunger, thirst, disease and the collapse of Gaza's besieged health system. And all of this is just the tip of the iceberg.

This is not collateral damage or incidental. It is a deliberate, methodical erasure of Palestinian life and society. It is the continuation of a long-standing project to "finish the job" begun in 1948 and enact a final solution to the "Palestinian demographic threat".

The real final goal of this war transcends military objectives or Mr. Netanyahu's political survival. It is a war over geography and demography – a campaign that began 77 years ago and still rages today. It aims to erase the indigenous Palestinian people from their homeland, uproot their presence from the map, and entrench Jewish supremacy from the river to the sea.

India's uneasy balancing act in the Bay of Bengal

Abhijit Singh

is the former head of maritime policy at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

India's economic engagements in the Bay of Bengal appear to be entering a new phase. On the face of it, there is reason for quiet confidence. Trade volumes through India's eastern ports are up. Cargo throughput at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Paradip (Odisha), and Haldia (West Bengal) has grown steadily. The signing of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement earlier this year promises to ease regulatory frictions and reduce port costs. For a region long characterised by low trade integration, these are welcome signs.

The decision on Bangladesh

And yet, the optimism sits uneasily alongside a decision that has raised more than a few eyebrows. In early April, India withdrew the transshipment facility it had granted to Bangladesh – an arrangement that had allowed Dhaka to route exports through Indian ports to third-country destinations. The official explanation was logistical: Indian terminals were congested, and delays were hurting exporters. That may well be true. But in Dhaka, the move was read differently – as a quiet assertion of Indian disapproval, possibly linked to Bangladesh's recent diplomatic overtures toward China. The timing was hardly a coincidence. The announcement came after Bangladesh's interim Chief Adviser, in a speech in Beijing, described India's northeastern States as 'landlocked' and cast Bangladesh as the region's maritime lifeline – a claim that did not sit well in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly underscored the strategic and economic importance of the Northeast, with Indian Ministers also championing its role in regional connectivity. The suggestion that these States are dependent on Bangladesh for maritime access struck a nerve.

This came as India has doubled down to position itself as a regional integrator. In recent years, New Delhi has invested heavily in port infrastructure through the Sagarmala programme to improve coastal logistics and connectivity. Cargo movement on the east coast has more than doubled in a decade, aided by policy changes such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) cuts on bunker fuel and incentives for coastal shipping. Maritime trade is, by all measures, a national priority.

India risks undermining the idea of cooperative regionalism it has sought to promote if it begins using trade access to signal political displeasure

Tensions amid reenergised BIMSTEC

At the regional level, India has sought to reinvigorate BIMSTEC. The BIMSTEC Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement, for instance, aims to harmonise customs procedures and foster multimodal linkages, with the broader goal of reducing the cost and friction of trade within the Bay. For smaller economies such as Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal, improved access through Indian ports remains a lifeline.

That is what makes the rollback of Bangladesh's transshipment facility seem somewhat jarring. It reintroduces conditionality into what had been presented as a neutral economic architecture – one where trade facilitation serves regional integration, not shifting political winds. For Bangladesh, the impact is immediate: exporters, particularly in the ready-made garment sector (which accounts for over 85% of the country's foreign earnings), will likely bear the brunt. Many had come to rely on Indian gateways for faster, cheaper access to global markets. The alternatives – via Sri Lanka or Southeast Asia – are costlier and less time-efficient. The move injects uncertainty into Bangladesh's export logistics at a time of already fragile demand.

Tensions have since escalated. In mid-May, India placed restrictions on the import of seven categories of Bangladeshi goods, which include garments, plastics, and processed foods, through land ports in the Northeast. These products can now only enter India through seaports such as Kolkata and Nhava Sheva (Maharashtra), which raises costs and delays. Indian officials cited Dhaka's restriction on yarn imports via land routes as justification, though India's revocation of the transshipment facility had preceded that move. Many in Bangladesh, nonetheless, view New Delhi's response as disproportionate.

Some in Delhi argue that Dhaka is being reminded of the risks of strategic hedging. Bangladesh has, after all, stepped up diplomatic engagement with China, reopened maritime trade with Pakistan, and asserted its role as a regional connector. But these are choices Dhaka is entitled to make. If India recalibrates trade access to signal political displeasure, it risks undermining the very idea of cooperative regionalism it has sought to promote.

This is not just a bilateral issue. What affects Dhaka will be noted in Naypyidaw, Bangkok, and Colombo. The concern is not that India has used leverage – major powers often do. The concern is that India has done so in a domain once insulated from overt geopolitical contest. Maritime trade corridors, once seen as shared infrastructure, are beginning to feel more transactional.

The issue is about credibility

India still holds many cards. Its port infrastructure remains the most extensive and efficient in the region. Cargo-handling capacity is expanding rapidly, and coastal shipping and multimodal linkages are more developed than those of any other BIMSTEC partner. But infrastructure alone does not confer leadership. In a region as fragmented and wary as the Bay, credibility matters as much as capacity. If neighbours begin to view Indian trade facilitation as shifting with the political winds, they will hedge – and the regional architecture India hopes to build will inevitably stall.

The Bay of Bengal, then, is at an inflection point. On one level, it is a zone of opportunity. With improved connectivity, it could emerge as a self-sustaining corridor between South and Southeast Asia. A proposed BIMSTEC free trade agreement, if concluded and implemented well, could reshape regional trade patterns. On another level, the region remains vulnerable to strategic anxieties. The line between economic policy and geopolitical preference is beginning to blur.

There may still be time to draw that line more clearly. India could clarify the circumstances under which the transshipment arrangement with Bangladesh might be reinstated – or, better yet, replace it with a rules-based mechanism that insulates trade from political cycles. That would send a reassuring signal not only to Dhaka but to the rest of the Bay.

The larger question is whether India can maintain the balance between asserting strategic interests and cultivating regional trust. So far, the signals are mixed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A path to peace

The prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to cause widespread suffering. A realistic ceasefire must involve compromises being made by both sides and commitments from the global community. First, Ukraine and the neighbouring countries could adopt a neutral stance, with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally agreeing not to expand into Russia's immediate neighbourhood. In return, major powers, including India and China, should jointly warn that any future unprovoked Russian aggression would face united global opposition. This would give regional countries a sense of security without the need for NATO membership. Second, Russia should return a portion of the occupied territories as a gesture of goodwill. While full territorial resolution may take time, partial withdrawal could help rebuild trust and open space for lasting peace talks. These steps will protect national sovereignties, reduce military tensions, and prevent further bloodshed.

Lakshay Siwach,
Rohtak, Haryana

West Asia tensions

The conflict between Israel and Iran is one where India cannot execute its ace de-hyphenation policy. It needs Iran for black gold and Israel for technology. The only thing that India can do is to hope for a de-escalation.

Nayan Parashar,
Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Ending the drought

South Africa's well-deserved win in the World Test Championship against arch rival Australia not only represents its long- awaited tryst with destiny — reminding it of its Rugby World Cup triumph in 1995 — but also overcoming the long-standing fear of being bad finishers in critical times.

In fact, the new team has reaffirmed Nelson Mandela's slogan of one team one country. Temba Bavuma's cricket team is the embodiment of a rainbow nation. It would not be an exaggeration to say that sports has the potential to act as a balm for wounded souls and nations.

Vijay Singh Adhikari,
Nainital, Uttarakhand

Corrections & Clarifications

Due to an editing error, the jet model was referred to as the Boeing 787-7 instead of the 787-8 in the front page report, "DNA profiling identifies 86 victims of AI crash; cockpit voice recorder retrieved" (June 16, 2025).

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Serving justices, but not justice

Arti Raghavan

Advocate practising at the Bombay High Court

On March 14, while battling a fire at Justice Yashwant Varma's official residence, authorities made a startling discovery: several half-incinerated sacks of cash. Within 10 days of the fire, Justice Varma, then a judge of the Delhi High Court, was stripped of judicial work and transferred to the Allahabad High Court. Less than two months after the incident, following an inquiry by a judicial committee, he faces impeachment. The inquiry was unusual in terms of its pace, and the Supreme Court's apparent willingness to share information with the public. However, this information conceals more than it reveals: the Supreme Court published a video, a few photos of the burning sacks of cash, and partially redacted correspondence relating to the incident. However, vital documents, including two reports by the Commissioner of Police, and the final report of the three-member judicial committee that forms the basis for the Chief Justice of India (CJI)'s recommendation for Justice Varma's impeachment, were not published. Further, the sacks of cash allegedly found on the premises are missing. News reports suggest that Justice Varma's staff removed them on the morning after the fire. It is unclear why this critical evidence that forms the basis of the corruption inquiry was not secured by the police.

The opacity surrounding the episode is not exceptional, but a result of the self-fashioned rules (the 'in-house procedure') deployed by the higher judiciary to inquire into incidents of misconduct by judges of constitutional courts.

The 'in-house procedure'

Under these rules, inquiries into misconduct are to be undertaken only by fellow judges. Almost no aspect of the procedure including the existence of a complaint, the institution of an inquiry, the procedure adopted, and the final report is required to be made public. A finding of guilt is not required to be disclosed to citizens. The committee can determine whether the misconduct warrants the judge's removal. The standard applied while deciding on the appropriate course of action is not known.

The past decade has given sufficient reason to question the legitimacy of the in-house procedure. In 2020, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh levelled grave allegations against Justice Ramana and other judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. On the eve of Justice Ramana's appointment as CJI, the Supreme Court published a terse dismissal of the complaint. The complaint also concerned Justice J.K. Maheshwari, who was transferred from the Andhra Pradesh High Court shortly after the allegations, and is now a judge of the Supreme Court. There is no information as to whether there was ever an inquiry into the complaint against him.

There were also allegations of sexual harassment against CJI Ranjan Gogoi in 2019. A three-member committee of Supreme Court judges exonerated CJI Gogoi of the charges. The complainant, a former Supreme Court staffer who also alleged she was removed from service for rebuffing the CJI's advances, was not permitted to have a lawyer present when summoned before the judicial committee, nor provided a copy of the final report dismissing her complaint. The Court also launched an inquiry into whether the complaint was part of a larger 'conspiracy' and constituted an attack on the independence of the judiciary. Admittedly, there was no evidence to this effect. The complainant was reinstated after CJI Gogoi's retirement, with full back wages, with no accounting for these patently inconsistent actions.

Justice Surya Kant, who is slated to be CJI in November 2025, faced serious allegations while he was a judge at the Punjab and Haryana High Court. These included taking bribes for bail orders, and of illegal acquisition of assets. In 2017, Justice A.K. Goel, a Supreme Court judge who had spent six years on the bench with Justice Surya Kant, was consulted by CJI Kehar regarding the allegations. Justice Goel said that allegations in respect of acquisition of assets, along with allegations into corruption and casteism in the selection of subordinate judicial officers, needed examination. In 2018, the Collegium approved Justice Surya Kant's elevation as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Goel recorded his objection in a letter to CJI Dipak Misra, noting that he had no information about an inquiry into the allegations, and reiterating that Justice Surya Kant was not suitable for the post till a thorough inquiry was conducted. To date, there is no information as to whether these complaints were investigated.

> While the stated reason for a lack of external oversight under the in-house procedure is to preserve judicial independence, it cannot shield the institution from public accountability

Citizens' right to know

The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the citizen's right to information as an integral facet of the freedom of speech and expression; it is the bedrock of a participative democracy. No exception ought to be afforded to information about the higher judiciary, on the grounds of preserving judicial independence or otherwise. Findings from in-house inquiries are not appealable, and public disclosure of the reports would in fact serve as a vital safeguard against arbitrariness and ensure greater public accountability. Transparency also fosters public trust in an institution, and speaks to its commitment to look inwards and identify systemic issues that enable misconduct.

One hopes that it will not take further scandals involving the higher judiciary before the 'in-house procedure' stops resembling papal conclaves, with the public's understanding limited to the colour of the smoke from the Chapel's chimney.

Water everywhere, but not a drop to drink

If there is data on water quality, many would choose alternatives to bottled water

STATE OF PLAY

James Godber

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5. It was a moment to reflect on the fragility of our planet and how collective action can help protect it. The theme for this year's day was 'Beat Plastic Pollution', a problem which the United Nations estimates costs between $300 billion and $600 billion annually but is perhaps also one of the most fixable environmental challenges we face. More than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year worldwide, and less than 10% is recycled. An estimated 11 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers, and seas annually. Microplastics find their way into food, water, and air. We must continue to increase levels of recycling, but the simplest way to tackle the issue is to try and avoid single-use plastics.

Last year, I began exploring a related challenge: Could Bengaluru's consumers reduce their reliance on bottled drinking water if they had greater confidence in the quality of alternative sources? The idea for this project came one morning when, while driving to a meeting, I realised that my water bottle was empty and that I would struggle to fill it up anywhere without making a detour. I began to think how, in a city which was once known for its lakes, it can sometimes seem disproportionately difficult to access safe drinking water outside the house without resorting to a plastic bottle.

Around the world, bottled water consumption continues to grow rapidly. According to a UN University report, bottled water sales have now surpassed half a trillion litres annually, driven in large part by concerns around water safety and the reliability of alternatives. Yet with this convenience comes a cost: the environmental burden of single-use plastic. Having begun to dig into this field, and reflecting on the incredible talent which calls Bengaluru home, I started considering whether there was a way in which technology could help address this problem.

The U.K.-India relationship can be based on mutual interest. We can learn from each other, especially on climate and sustainable development. The U.K. is working with India in providing expertise through programming; partnering with India on science and technology; providing support on climate finance; and collaborating on initiatives on renewables, green power connectivity, and adaptation.

Over the past six months, the U.K. has partnered with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment to better understand this issue, specifically in Bengaluru. Focusing initially on water sources in restaurants and through consumer research and testing, we now have a body of evidence that confirms that some consumers choose bottled water because of the uncertainty around the quality of other sources. Our research has highlighted how, if consumers had access to reliable data about water quality, many would feel more confident choosing alternatives to bottled water. Consumer fears around the quality and consequences of drinking non-bottled are justified, as many water samples tested during this research fell short of the standards for safe drinking water.

So what does this mean? We know that around the world, plastic has both an environmental and social cost – we see it on our streets and even in wild spaces such as our national parks. We routinely drink filtered water at home because we are confident that the system is being effectively maintained. We know that drinking sufficient water and staying hydrated is essential to maintaining our long-term health and we are witnessing how the manufacturers of filters systems, designed to clean water at the point of use, are increasingly using technological solutions to allow consumers to track their water consumption; and provide data on when their filters should be serviced.

Making this same information available outside the home – for example, by communicating the maintenance status of filters and displaying it in restaurants, malls, or offices – would help ensure consumers have peace of mind when drinking filtered water. By bridging this gap in trust, Bengaluru, which is renowned for innovation, could lead the way in reducing our dependence on plastic. In doing so, we would not only ease the burden of plastic waste but also set an example of how local solutions can feed into global progress.

James Godber is the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Deputy High Commission, Bengaluru

Analysing Internet access and digital skills in India

The first Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey shows that there is wider access to the Internet, but with significant variations across social groups

DATA POINT

Subhanil Chowdhury
Samiran Sengupta

One important target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education. Within this broad goal, there are two important targets pertaining to Internet and digital skills. Target 4.4.1 talks about the share of youth and adult population who have some Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skill. Target 4.4.2 pertains to a degree of proficiency in digital skills. Therefore, to attain the SDG4 target of education, providing ICT infrastructure and assessing digital skills is important.

The data to assess these skills were rather sparse until the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) between July 2022 and June 2023. This is arguably the first sample survey which asks a set of questions about people's access to, and use of, digital technology. The survey was conducted across India in 3.02 lakh households and with 12.99 lakh people.

At the all-India level, 76.3% of households have broadband Internet facilities. In rural areas, 71.2% of households have the facility, while in urban areas, 86.5% do. This data shows the deep penetration of the Internet in India. But there are variations across States, castes, gender, and class.

In some States, more than 90% of the households have a broadband connection. These include Delhi, Goa, Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. But in some other States, fewer than 70% have a broadband connection. These include West Bengal (69.3%), Andhra Pradesh (66.5%), Odisha (65.3%), and Arunachal Pradesh (60.2%).

There are also significant variation within caste groups on the issue of broadband connectivity at home. In households in the general category, 84.1% have broadband connection, while the numbers for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are 77.5%, 69.1%, and 64.8% respectively. While it is significant that within all social groups, the majority of the households have broadband connectivity, OBC, SC, and ST communities are still significantly behind households in the general category in this aspect.

The most striking difference predictably exists in terms of income. Generally, the monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) is used as a proxy for income, since income data at the household level is not available. From the unit-level data of CAMS, we have arranged the population from the bottom 10% to the top 10% in terms of MPCE **(Chart 1)**. While in the lowest decile class, 71.6% households don't have broadband connectivity, the number for the highest decile class is only 1.9%. However, even for those who belong to the second lowest decile class, the majority (56.2%) have broadband connection at home. In other words, while the poorest are still on the wrong side of the digital divide, broadband connectivity improves with every decile class. Economic status is a significant determinant of broadband connectivity. The government has said that provision of high-speed Internet is a fundamental utility akin to water or electricity (Digital India website). To facilitate coverage of the poorest sections of the society, the government can think of subsidising broadband connections so that there is universal coverage.

According to the CAMS report, 94.2% of rural households and 97.1% of urban households have mobile or telephone connections in their households. When we look at people aged 15 years and above, 92.4% in urban areas and 83.9% in rural areas can use mobile phones. However, a deeper look at the data shows that the use of mobile phones is not as universal as the headline numbers suggest.

Table 2 shows the share of the population who use a mobile phone with an active SIM card exclusively, for making calls or accessing the Internet. The data shows that women and socially deprived sections are at a disadvantage. For example, within the general category, only 25.3% of women use mobile phones exclusively in rural areas, while the number for urban areas is 51.2%. For SCs, STs, and OBCs, the numbers are far below the general category for both men and women.

While there is a lot of discussion about 5G connectivity in India, data show that just more than half the population in rural areas uses 4G, while more than 70% in urban areas use the same. A significant share of the population (40.4%) still uses mobile technology which is more primitive than 4G. The share of people with 5G connectivity is negligible in the country.

To gauge digital skills, we focused on some basic tasks such as using the Internet, sending emails, copy-pasting from documents, using arithmetic operations in spreadsheets, and performing online banking transactions **(Chart 3).** Around 53.6% of the population (15 years and above) can use the Internet in rural areas and 74% in urban areas. The proportion who can send/receive emails is even lower (20% for rural, 40% for urban). Only around 40% of the rural population can perform the copy-paste function, while 60% of the urban population can. The share of people who can perform arithmetic operations in spreadsheets is extremely low. Only 37.8% of India's population aged 15 years and above can perform online banking transactions.

Subhanil Chowdhury is an Associate Professor of Economics at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, and Samiran Sengupta is a data analyst

Digital goals
The data for the charts were calculated by the authors based on unit level data of the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey for 2022-2023

Chart 1: The chart shows the broadband connectivity of households according to the decile classes of Monthly Per Capita Expenditurem (in %)

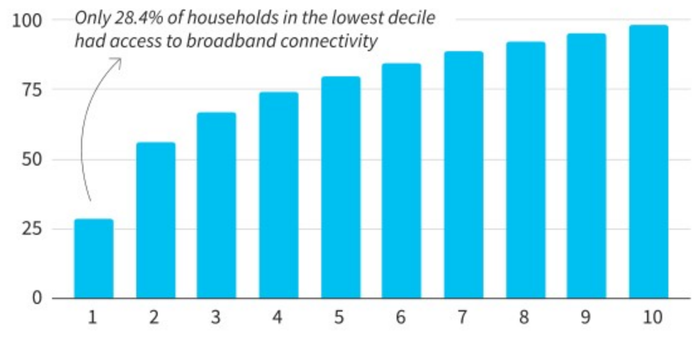
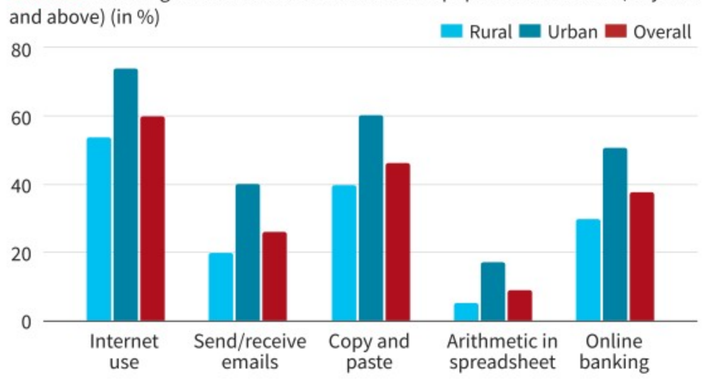


Table 2: Proportion of the population who use any mobile phone with an active SIM card exclusively for making calls or accessing the Internet

Social group	Rural (%)		Urban (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
GEN	45.8	25.3	69.9	51.2
OBC	41.1	20.6	63.3	41.3
SC	35.4	16.4	54.5	33.3
ST	35.6	15.5	61.3	43.9

Chart 3: Select digital skills of the rural and urban populations of India (15 years and above) (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1975

Global eradication of malaria "a bluff"

Geneva, June 16: The World Health Organisation has admitted failure in its multi-million dollar campaign to eradicate malaria and has warned that the disease could become even more of a scourge in the future.

Experts of the 145-nation WHO have reported that malaria is sweeping back into areas of the world where hopes had been high it would be cleared. There had been a serious deterioration in Asia, and in Africa the health of millions of people was at risk because of it.

Unless firm action was taken by member Governments, malaria could return to areas of the world where it had been wiped out, resulting in huge human social and economic losses, the experts told the recent World Health Assembly in Geneva.

The first high-ranking WHO official to admit publicly the failure of the Organisation's 19-year-old malaria eradication project was Director-General Halfdan Mahler. He told a press conference: "For many years we tried to keep up a bluff that global eradication was possible... Now we have thrown in the towel. It is very difficult to admit failure and it took us a very long time to admit that the Organisation was not able to put forward a programme for eradication."

The number of deaths caused by malaria, a disease transmitted by mosquitoes and characterised by alternate chills and fevers, is hard to assess since Governments do not have to report deaths caused by it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1925

French India elections

Pondicherry, June 15: A large number of objection petitions for setting aside of the last election of members for the municipalities of Pondicherry, Arvankuppam, Mudaliarpet, etc., conducted on the 3rd ultimo, have now been filed by the members belonging to the opposition party. The common allegations contained in the several objection petitions are to the following effect: (1) A large number of voters were not supplied with the necessary passes of authorisation and identity, which is termed here as the "Bulletin"; (2) The voters' list, which was prepared just before the elections, was defective and incomplete since the names of a large number of voters had been wantonly eliminated from this list.

From Page One

India moving citizens in Iran, Israel to safer places

The External Affairs Minister, in separate posts on social media, said that he had "discussed ongoing developments in the region and [India-Armenia] close cooperation" with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, and also discussed the "role of diplomacy" with the Foreign Minister of the UAE, Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Border crossings

In Iran, sources said that buses have started relocating Indian students from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Azad University-Tehran Medical Sciences, and the Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran India has been discussing with the Armenian authorities to enable Indian citizens cross the border at Agarak.

While border crossings from Iran to Turkiye and Azerbaijan are also open at present, sources suggested that those crossings may prove less convenient given the tense ties with both countries in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor.

Concern over permits

A similar relocation of students is expected to take place soon from the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran and Urmia University of Medical Sciences near Iran's border. Indian officials have advised students that "it is highly advisable to move out of Tehran by availing of this bus facility". Indian visitors are entitled to a 14-day visa-free period, but with no easy way out of the country, travellers and pilgrims are worried that their permits will run out. Given the uncertain situation, officials said the Indian embassy in Tehran will try to relocate Indians, including about 7,500 students, to safer cities and towns outside the capital area. The embassy is continuously assessing the situation, the officials said. Indian authorities have registered citizens in Iran through Google forms and set up hotlines and social media groups to keep them updated.

India's total trade deficit narrows to $6.6 billion

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The data show that India's non-petroleum exports grew 5.1% in May 2025.

Merchandise imports, too, were impacted by falling oil prices. While total merchandise imports contracted 1.7% in May 2025, the non-petroleum imports grew 10% in the same month. Services imports grew 1.5%. Taken together, total imports contracted 1% in May 2025.

According to Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, a large part of the reason for the subdued performance in merchandise exports is the fall in global oil prices.

"For May, there is positive growth in non-petroleum exports because petroleum, in times of crisis, there is a lot of volatility," Mr. Barthwal said at a briefing on the trade data. "Currently, there is new volatility that has come. And we have also seen, in the last two months, there was a sustained fall in prices in petroleum, which has got a dampening impact on exports."

Caste will be enumerated in Census, says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry, in a post on X on Monday, reiterated that caste will be enumerated in the forthcoming Census.

"The notification to conduct Census has been published in the Official Gazette today. The Census will include caste enumeration as well. However, some misleading information is being spread that there is no mention of caste census in the notification. It has already been mentioned in the Press Releases dated 30 April, 4 June and 15 June, 2025 that Census will also have caste enumeration," the Ministry said.

Earlier in the day, the Congress had said the notification by the Centre was a "damp squib" and was silent on the inclusion of caste enumeration. "It is quite a damp squib and merely repeats what had already been announced on April 30, 2025," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Is this yet another U-turn by the *ustad* of U-turns? Or will details be announced later?" Mr. Ramesh asked. He said that Mr. Modi had consistently opposed the caste census. On 28 April 2024, Mr. Modi termed those wanting a caste census "urban Naxals", he said.

Registrar-General of India issues 2027 Census notification

The Census will be conducted in two phases using digital tools; around 34 lakh enumerators, supervisors set to be deployed for the exercise

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The next Census will be conducted in 2027, the Union Home Ministry notified on Monday.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that with the publication of the notification, the freezing of administrative boundaries comes into effect, barring States from making any changes to the maps of police stations, districts, and tehsils, among others, as enumeration blocks form the basis of the Census.

The boundaries of administrative units cannot be changed by States till the Census process is complete, the official said.

The Registrar-General of India, under the Home Ministry, issued the notification in the Gazette of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.

"The reference date for the said census shall be 00.00 hours of the 1st day of March, 2027, except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In respect of the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of the 1st day of October, 2026," the notification said.

All ready: Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a meeting to review the preparation for the upcoming Census, in New Delhi. PTI

The Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that the Census will be conducted through digital means, using mobile applications, where the provision of self-enumeration would also be made available to the people.

"Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure data security at the time of collection, transmission and storage," it said.

The official said that, in the coming days, separate notifications would be issued for the pre-test exercise and the House Listing Operations, which will specify the dates of the first phase of the Census. The pre-test exercise is necessary to determine the efficacy of mobile apps and the enumerators' familiarity with the entire process.

On Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the preparations for the exercise. The Census will be conducted in two phases – House Listing Operations and Population Enumeration. Around 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, and 1.3 lakh Census functionaries will be deployed for the exercise.

Cong. 'deceives' OBCs, treats them only as vote bank, says BJP

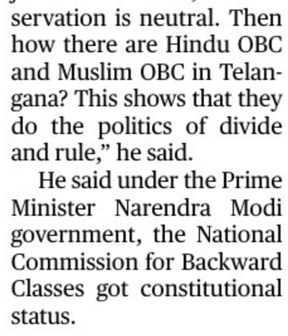
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the Congress of "always deceiving" the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and treating them only as a "vote bank", stating that the decision to conduct a fresh caste survey in Karnataka was driven by the motive of "electoral engineering".

At a press conference, Union Minister and BJP leader Bhupender Yadav sought to fix responsibility for the expenditure of about ₹165 crore on the first caste survey, which was initiated in 2015 and its report submitted in 2024. He alleged that there were several issues with that report, which was not made public, and communal appeasement had also been done.

Mr. Yadav disputed the process being adopted for the resurvey, saying that the 90-day timeline was "unrealistic". Citing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's remarks that the decision was not his government's but that of the Congress leadership, he questioned the party's "interference" in the State government's functioning and said it was akin to the National Advisory Council's role during the UPA regime.

Alleging that the Congress always deceived the OBCs, the Union Minister said that after the Kaka Kalelkar Commission's report, which was "suppressed", the subsequent Congress governments did not constitute any other commission. The Mandal Commission was formed under the Janata Party rule. After the Supreme Court upheld the legality of Mandal Commission, the Congress did the work of weakening it, he alleged.



Bhupender Yadav

"Even now, there is no change in the Congress's approach," he said, alleging that the party's objective was "electoral engineering" instead of "social justice". "In India, OBC reservation is neutral. Then how there are Hindu OBC and Muslim OBC in Telangana? This shows that they do the politics of divide and rule," he said.

He said under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government, the National Commission for Backward Classes got constitutional status.

FATF condemns Pahalgam attack, to release report on 'state-sponsored terror' for first time

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the apex inter-governmental anti-terror financing watchdog, has issued a statement condemning the Pahalgam terror attack, noting that it "could not occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters".

According to sources, this is a significant condemnation as it is only the third time in the last decade that a terror attack has been condemned by the FATF. Further, it is learnt that the FATF will release a report next month which, for the first time, will include state-sponsorship as a separate source of funding of terror.

People in Guwahati protesting against the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, on April 23. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The Hindu had reported earlier about how the government was sending a dossier to the FATF to argue in favour of including Pakistan in the 'grey list' of countries that warranted greater scrutiny.

"Terrorist attacks kill, maim, and inspire fear around the world," the FATF said in a statement. "The FATF notes with grave concern and condemns the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025. This, and other recent attacks, could not occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters."

According to sources aware of these developments, the FATF "rarely" issues a condemnation of terrorist acts.

"It is only the third time in the last decade that they have issued a condemnation of a terrorist attack," the source said. "It has issued the condemnation because the international community has felt the severity of the attack and highlights that such attacks will not go unpunished."

According to the sources, the FATF has also developed a Terror Financing Risk & Context toolkit for assessors, so that countries such as Pakistan cannot "fool them with lies" about the terror financing risks from their jurisdictions.

The FATF will soon release a comprehensive analysis of terrorist financing and will host a webinar to help the public and private sectors understand the risks and stay alert to emerging threats. Sources said this report would be out in a month.

"The FATF is releasing a report on terror financing risks in a month's time," the source said. "This is the first time the concept of 'state-sponsored terrorism' is being acknowledged by FATF as a funding source. Only India's National Risk Assessment recognises state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan as a key terror financing risk."

Students from J&K shifted to safer areas in Tehran

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Scores of students from Jammu and Kashmir pursuing professional courses in Iran were reportedly shifted from the capital, Tehran, to safer locations on Monday. However, anxious parents are worried about the students who are studying in other cities of Iran, which have been facing a major aerial assault from Israel.

With communication lines, especially Internet service, growing weaker between Iran and India, S. Qadri, a resident of Srinagar, said his daughter informed the family on Monday morning that Kashmiri students were being shifted in batches to Qom, a city in north-central Iran that is considered a safer location.

Saqib Ali, a resident of Budgam, said her sister, studying in a varsity in Tehran, was also shifted to Qom in the last 12 hours. "She said the place is relatively calm compared to Tehran. The Internet is slow, and we only manage to message them. I appeal to the Government of India and the J&K government to find out a way to evacuate all of them," Mr. Ali said.

No evacuation in Sheraz

Meanwhile, the father of a student from Nawa Kadal, Srinagar, told the family that the students studying in other cities like Sheraz were not being evacuated yet.

A police spokesperson in Srinagar urged locals that if any students, workers, or individuals from Srinagar district are presently stranded in Iran due to the prevailing situation there and require assistance, they or their family members may kindly reach out to the District Police, Srinagar, for support and assistance.

Kuki-Zo groups, Centre reach an understanding on closure of camps close to Meitei areas: official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Kuki-Zo insurgent groups and Union Home Ministry officials, at a meeting on Monday, reached an understanding on the relocation and closure of certain camps run by the groups in Manipur, a senior government official said.

The Ministry laid stress on the recovery of looted weapons and the opening of the national highways, the official added.

Security agencies have proposed the closure of seven out of 14 existing camps, which are located close to Meitei-populated areas in the foothills.

Arms and ammunition recovered from the outskirts of the 5 valley districts during a joint operation, in Imphal, on Saturday. ANI

The insurgent groups in the suspensions of operations (SoO) pact with the government resumed talks with the Home Ministry on June 9, after a gap of two years. The official said that no deadline was fixed for the extension of the SoO pact with the Kuki-Zo groups as it depended on adherence to ground rules and other conditions. The pact became ineffective on February 29, 2024, when the Manipur government pulled out from the tripartite agreement. The Home Ministry and the SoO groups are the other two signatories.

"Discussions on ground rules were held on Monday, and an agreement has been reached on certain key changes, which include closure of camps. Making highways fully operational was also stressed upon," said the government official.

National Highways 2 and 37, which connect the land-locked Meitei-dominated Imphal valley to Nagaland and Assam, respectively, are critical for the supply of essentials and other commodities, and pass through Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

The official said that the next round of talks would be held after 15 days.

Changing terms

An SoO representative said that since the demands from pre-May 3, 2023, had changed, there was a need to revisit the ground rules of the SoO pact.

"We have also proposed certain plans to the Ministry, which involve the security forces. The closure of camps is under discussion. When we signed the pact in 2008, a drill was followed to finalise the ground rules; the same process is being followed now," the representative said.

Around 2,200 cadres of the SoO groups comprising United People's Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) – umbrella organisations of 25 insurgent groups, live in 14 designated camps in the hill districts of Manipur. The cadres are entitled to a stipend of ₹6,000 per month, which has not been paid since the violence erupted.

The SoO agreement was signed in the wake of the Kuki-Naga clashes in the 1990s, when hundreds were killed. The insurgent groups demanded an independent land for the Kuki-Zo people.

Shah launches tech platforms for better disaster management

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tool for real-time response, a national database and flood hazard atlas of Assam were unveiled

Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled three major technology platforms on Monday to improve the speed and precision of disaster management.

Mr. Shah launched the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER), National Database for Emergency Management Lite 2.0 (NDEM Lite 2.0) and Flood Hazard Zonation Atlas of Assam at the annual conference of Relief Commissioners, Secretaries of Disaster Management and State Disaster Response Forces.

In a post on X, Mr. Shah said the three platforms "will equip our disaster management apparatus with the speed and precision of the new age technologies". "The ICR-ER will prompt real-time response to disaster(s) across the nation by streaming satellite data to rescue agencies, and the NDEM Lite 2.0 will provide our response forces spread across nooks and corners with the agility to confront any calamity as a single unit," he said. The flood hazard atlas for Assam will help in disaster mitigation by providing real-time data related to floods, their impact, and water levels in rivers, the Minister said.

India backs 'peaceful resolution of Cyprus question' in statement

Cyprus bestows its highest honour on PM during his visit; joint statement calls for 'lasting settlement' of the Cyprus question; visit also revives political contact with country that is set to assume Presidency of EU Council in first half of 2026

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held talks with Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides, and sent an indirect message to Turkiye while renewing India's support for the unity of Cyprus and "peaceful resolution" of the "Cyprus question".

He also reiterated his call for ending the Israel-Iran and Russia-Ukraine conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. A joint statement issued at the end of the visit called for "lasting settlement" of the Cyprus question.

High accolade: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides after he was felicitated with Cyprus's highest honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Macarios III. PTI

Cyprus is the first foreign destination that Mr. Modi has visited after the conclusion of Operation Sindoor against Pakistan in May and sources hinted that the visit is a message to Turkiye that is viewed as a key ally of Pakistan. The joint statement mentioned India's "unwavering and consistent support for the Independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity of the Republic of Cyprus". In an indirect reference to Turkiye's support to Northern Cyprus, the joint statement said, "Both sides emphasised the need to avoid unilateral actions as essential for creating a conducive environment for the resumption of meaningful negotiations."

Northern Cyprus, consisting of the north and eastern part of Cyprus, is backed by Turkiye. Mr. Modi toured the divided capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, and parts of Northern Cyprus featured in a photograph of Mr. Modi that was taken during the tour.

In remarks to the media, Tanmay Lal, Secretary West, Ministry of External Affairs, further emphasised India's support for the territorial integrity of Cyprus and said, "The friendship and the trusted partnership between India and Cyprus has a long history. In the 1950s, India had advocated for the Independence of Cyprus. Cyprus supports India for a permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council and India supports Cyprus on the Cyprus question."

The joint statement said, "Cyprus and India expressed their strong commitment to the resumption of UN-facilitated efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus question on the basis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality, in accordance with the agreed UN framework and the relevant United Nations Security Council [UNSC] Resolutions."

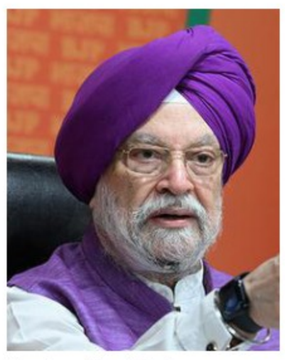
Since 1974 Cyprus has been divided between Turkiye-backed Northern Cyprus and the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus, and the dispute has been known as the Cyprus question.

The visit is also a timely revival of India-Cyprus political contact ahead of Cyprus taking over the Presidency of Council of the European Union in the first half of 2026. Cyprus had condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22. Indicating the deepening cooperation between India and Cyprus at the EU, Mr. Modi said, "Cyprus is a trusted partner of India in the European Union." Earlier, Cyprus bestowed its highest honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Macarios III on Mr. Modi. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Modi said, "I dedicate this honour to the friendly ties between India and Cyprus and our shared values and mutual understanding."

Consistent support

Cyprus has been consistent in its support to India on the Kashmir issue and has been opposing cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. It has also supported India in its campaign for a permanent seat at the UNSC, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In reciprocal gesture, India has supported resolution of Cypriot territorial dispute as per UNSC resolutions, international law and the EU acquis, the collective EU body on laws and regulations.

"We expressed concern about the ongoing conflicts in Europe and West Asia. The negative impact of these conflicts are not limited to these regions alone. We both agree that this is not the age of war. Humanity is calling for an end to these conflicts through dialogue and restoration of stability," said the Prime Minister, who reached Cyprus on Sunday on his way to the G7 summit in Canada.



Hardeep Singh Puri

Puri dismisses pro-Khalistan protests in Canada

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday dismissed the recent pro-Khalistani protests in Canada ahead of the G7 Summit, calling the demonstrators hired stooges who should not be taken seriously.

"One more video is going viral in which these people are protesting against the neighbouring country after they did not get funding from them," Mr. Puri said. "These are hired stooges. Don't take them seriously," he said.

The Minister made the remarks while inaugurating an exhibition marking 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and 100 days of the Delhi government at the BJP headquarters here.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to arrive in Canada to attend the G7 summit from Cyprus on the second leg of his visit, at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Modi to attend G7 Outreach Summit, hold bilateral meets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to reach Calgary, Canada on Monday to attend the G7 Outreach Summit.

The summit is being watched keenly as it is being held against the backdrop of escalating Israel-Iran and Russia-Ukraine conflicts.

Apart from Mr. Modi, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be among the guests in the summit that will be held in Kananaskis, Alberta.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Canada, taking place after a brief visit to Cyprus on Sunday, is being viewed with interest here as it will give an opportunity to him and the new Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to warm up India-Canada ties that had nosedived during the Premiership of Justin Trudeau after he alleged in September 2023 that Indian state actors were behind the June 18, 2023 murder of pro-Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The G7 summit is the first multilateral event that Mr. Modi will attend after the conclusion of Operation Sindoor. REUTERS

Step forward

Earlier, Mr. Carney had taken a step forward to normalisation of ties by highlighting India's global profile that he said required engagement.

The G7 summit is the first multilateral event that Mr. Modi will attend after the conclusion of Operation Sindoor against terror targets in Pakistan in May. Apart from Prime Minister Carney, Mr. Modi is expected to meet multiple other leaders of the G7 and the guest countries.

Three core issues

The G-7 Outreach Summit is scheduled for Tuesday noon which will be themed around three core issues of "Protecting our communities around the world", "Building energy security and accelerating the digital transition" and "Securing the partnerships of the future".

Apart from the Indian Prime Minister, and Mr. Zelenskyy, host Canada has invited leaders of Australia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, and South Korea.

Following his engagements in Canada, Mr. Modi will leave on Tuesday evening for Zagreb, Croatia which is last of his three-nation tour.

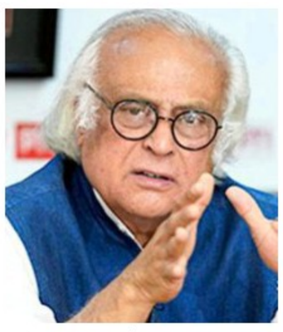
Adani scam probe hampered by lack of information from tax haven countries: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said that a key figure in the alleged Adani scam had Cypriot citizenship, but ongoing investigations by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) into transactions involving the Adani Group had been impacted by insufficiency in sharing of financial information by tax haven countries, and the "lack of pressure" from India.

The charge came amid Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus.

"The Prime Minister is in Cyprus on his way to Canada. Of course, he would have us believe that it is a pure coincidence that a key figure in the Modani scam has Cypriot citizenship. The Cyprus-based fund New Leaina has reportedly about $420 million in Adani companies,"



Jairam Ramesh

Congress's communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on social media platform X.

The "ultimate beneficial owners of this fund are linked to Amicorp, which is believed to have set up at least seven Adani promoter entities, seventeen offshore shell companies linked to Mr. Vinod Adani, and three Mauritius-based offshore investors in Adani Group stock," Mr. Ramesh said.

"All these transactions are part of the ongoing SEBI investigations which have been hampered by lack of sharing of financial information by these and other tax-haven countries and lack of pressure by India," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

There was no reaction to the latest salvo from the Congress from either the Union government or the Adani Group.

Mr. Ramesh also explained how India, under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in the 1950s, had rooted for Cyprus to become independent from British rule, and the island had become free on August 16, 1960.

"In the context of today's geopolitics, it is worthwhile to recall that India's championing of the independence of Cyprus in the 1950s and thereafter became a sore point in our bilateral relations with Turkiye," he said.

RJD accuses JD(U) of 'nepotism' in appointment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Janata Dal on Monday said that Janata Dal(U) national working president and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Kumar Jha's daughters were made "Group A Panel Counsel" of the Union government in the Supreme Court. Mr. Jha did not respond to the charges.

Talking to presspersons, senior RJD MP Manoj Jha said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is succumbing to the pressure from ally JD (U). "It is an example of nepotism," he said. He added that the JD(U) leader's two daughters did not have the necessary experience for being included in such a panel of lawyers.

The RJD MP said the pressure of the coalition at the Centre is bearing on Mr. Modi. "Were there no better, eligible candidates?" he asked.

Bridge in Pune district was declared dangerous before collapse: Maharashtra CM

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Following the collapse of the century-old iron bridge over the Indrayani river in Pune district, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said that the District Collector had declared the iron pedestrian bridge dangerous, and warning boards had been installed at the site.

"The Collector declared the structure dangerous much before the incident, and villagers also installed the warning signboard. Moreover, the contract for the construction of a new bridge at the site has been given, and work has already started," Mr. Fadnavis said, adding that "500 such sites" had been identified across the district.

On Sunday, the iron bridge in Maval tehsil in Pune district collapsed due to overcrowding by tourists amid heavy rainfall. The incident left four dead and 51 injured. Two National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have conducted search and rescue operations.

Thorough check: Rescue workers searching for bodies on Monday after the collapse of the bridge over the Indrayani near Pune. PTI

'Notification issued'

"The notifications for all 500 locations have been issued with the police and villagers involved in cautioning people," he told presspersons in Palghar.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department has issued a red alert in several districts of Maharashtra, including Ratnagiri and Raigad districts.

An orange alert has been issued in Ahilyanagar, Dhule, Nandurbar, Palghar, Mumbai, Sindhudurg, Thane, Pune, Satara, Nashik, Mumbai Suburban, and Jalna districts.

Uttarakhand to resume copter service for yatra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after seven people, including a two-year-old child and the pilot, were killed in a helicopter crash in Kedarnath valley, the Uttarakhand government decided to resume chopper service for the Char Dham yatra from Tuesday.

Sonika, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, announced the resumption of helicopter services on Monday evening.

The official said that helicopter services will only run if the weather conditions will be favourable. The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation is going to keep a close watch on all the shuttle services.

The services were suspended on Sunday after the helicopter, ferrying pilgrims to Kedarnath temple crashed near Guptkashi.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – ITEM WAR (Two Cover System) E Submission

NIT No.	08 / F. Revamping / SDO / CE/ VLR/ 2025/ Dt.11.06.2025
Fund	Revamping Fund 2025 - 2026
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore – 632 006.
Downloading Period of Bid document	**19.06.2025** to **18.07.2025** upto **15.00** Hours (as per server time)
Available Website	E-Tendering Website "**https://tntenders.gov.in**"
EMD Payable at	Online Mode through e-Tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
Pre Bid Meeting	**09.07.2025** at **11.00** Hours at Office of the Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Vellore – 632 006.
Bid Submission	**18.07.2025** upto **15.00** Hours Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website "**https://tntenders.gov.in**".
Bid Opening	**21.07.2025** at **15.30** Hours at the Office of the Tender Invitee through E-Tendering website.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in lakh)
1	Revamping works of CWSS to Rishivandiyam and 91 other habitations & Kallakurichi Mpty, Thiyagadurgam & Chinnasalem TP in Villupuram District (Construction period: 12 months and Free Maintenance: 3 months).	27.85	20.90

DIPR/ 3043 /TENDER/2025
Chief Engineer (i/c), TWAD Board, Vellore-6
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 Phone No. 080-22265383 Website : www.kiadb.in

No: IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-01/216/2025-26 **Date: 13.06.2025**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

Name of the work: Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Formation of Industrial Area including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation Cost Estimates, Cost Structure etc., at Chandra Banda, Singanodi & Kurubdoddi Villages for the proposed Chandrabanda Industrial Area in Raichur Taluk & District.

The Last Date and Time for Submission of Bids: **27.06.2025** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/1259/CCL/2025-26
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru

संत लौंगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
(भारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)
(Deemed to be University under MoE)
Longowal–148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

NOTIFICATIONNO:04/ 2025 DATED: 10 /06/2025

RECRUITMENT NOTICE- SPECIAL DRIVE (BACKLOG VACANCIES)

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up following posts in Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering & Technology, Longowal, District Sangrur, Punjab

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	No. of posts	Pay Scale & Upper Age Limit
1	Deputy Registrar	01 (SC)	Pay Level-12 Rs.78,800-2,09,200/- with an initial starting basic pay of Rs. 78,800/-. Maximum Age-55 years as on 28.07.2025
2	Medical Officer (Female)	01 (OBC-NCL*)	Pay Level-10 with an initial start basic pay of Rs. 56,100/-. Maximum Age- 53 years as on 28.07.2025

**OBC-Non Creamy Layer*

For more details regarding method of recruitment, qualification & experience and how to apply, please visit Institute's website **www.sliet.ac.in**. The last date of receipt of application by post/ courier in prescribed format is **28.07.2025 by 05:00 P.M.**

DIRECTOR

INBRIEF

Don't depend on agents for PF services, EPFO tells members

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has asked its subscribers to not depend on private agents for services related to their PF accounts. The EPFO said in a release that it had observed that several cybercafe operators and fintech companies were charging EPFO members large sums of money for services that were officially free. "In many cases, these operators are simply using the EPFO's online grievance portal, something any member can do on their own, free of cost, from the comfort of their homes," the EPFO cautioned its subscribers.. Engaging with third-party companies or agents may expose members' financial data to third party entities, the EPFO said.

'My New Journey': Amitabh Kant resigns as G-20 Sherpa

Amitabh Kant, who managed diverse assignments during his 45 years in government service, has resigned as the G-20 Sherpa. Mr. Kant, a retired 1980-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Kerala cadre, was appointed India's G-20 Sherpa in July 2022, months before India assumed the G-20 Presidency. In a LinkedIn post titled "My New Journey", Mr. Kant expanded on his decision and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bestowing the opportunity. Mr. Kant said leading multilateral negotiations as the country's Sherpa had been one of the most significant milestones in his career. He also served as CEO of NITI Aayog from 2016 to 2022. PTI

Bodies of 119 crash victims identified after DNA profiling

Official death toll yet to be announced; bodies of 76 victims, including former CM Rupani, handed over; hospital urges families to remain patient; Gujarat CM tells officials to speed up identification

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Solemn affair: Family members of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani pay respects after receiving his body at the Civil Hospital in Ahmedabad on Monday. VIJAY SONEJI

The Gujarat government on Monday said that DNA profiling has helped identify 119 victims of the June 12 Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

The official death toll, however, has yet to be formally announced, even as the Tata-owned Air India has said that 241 of the 242 people aboard the aircraft were killed in the accident. Several others on the ground were also killed or injured when the plane crashed into a residential locality after take-off.

The delay in officially declaring the total number of casualties has caused concern among local people and inmates of the hostel where the aircraft crashed, especially as several people were killed or critically injured on the ground.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said the "identification process is still under way", indicating the scale and complexity of the forensic effort.

Hospital authorities confirmed that 76 bodies – including that of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani – have been handed over to the families of victims.

Rupani, who was among the passengers aboard the ill-fated London-bound flight, was travelling to visit his family in the U.K. His remains were received by his wife, Anjali Rupani, and other family members at Ahmedabad's Civil Hospital before being taken to Rajkot, his hometown, for final rites.

'Ensure dignity'

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel visited the hospital on Monday, where many families have been camping for days to collect the mortal remains of their loved ones. He offered condolences and instructed officials to speed up the identification process while ensuring dignity in the handover.

With the bodies of the victims charred and mutilated, the authorities are relying on DNA testing for positive identification.

Rakesh Joshi, superintendent of the Civil Hospital, said, "Some families are anxious, understandably. But DNA matching is a legally binding procedure. We urge them to bear with us as we complete this with care and urgency."

He said the deceased whose bodies have been handed over to their families were from different parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

"We are trying our best to finish this process as soon as possible. Some are complaining that the results have not come even after 72 hours. We're aiming to complete the DNA identification process for all victims by late Tuesday or early Wednesday," Dr. Joshi added.

Delhi-bound Air India flight returns to Hong Kong after snag

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

A Delhi-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner from Hong Kong returned to its airport of origin on Monday within an hour of take-off after the pilot-in-command suspected a technical issue.

"AI315 operating from Hong Kong to Delhi on 16 June 2025 returned to Hong Kong shortly after takeoff due to a technical issue. The flight landed safely at Hong Kong and is undergoing checks as a matter of abundant precaution. Alternative arrangements have been planned to fly the passengers to their destination Delhi at the earliest," Air India said.

The Airport Authority Hong Kong spokesperson said, "The flight landed safely around 1.15 pm."

The flight departed after a delay of almost 3.5 hours as its scheduled departure was at 8.50 am, as per the website *flightradar24.com*. The flight departed from Hong Kong at 12.16 p.m. (local time) and was scheduled to land in Delhi at 12.20 pm IST.

High-level committee discusses possible reasons for crash

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A high-level multi-disciplinary committee, set up by the government to look into the Ahmedabad plane crash, on Monday deliberated on various possible theories about what could have led to the country's worst air disaster in decades. The panel was chaired by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan.

In the first meeting of the panel here, sources said, the focus of the participants was to analyse the possible causes of the aircrash and how to go about "formulating Standard Operating Procedures for preventing such occurrences in the future".

The committee is expected to submit its report within three months.

Ax-4 mission: ISRO, Axiom Space coordinate on crucial experiments before launch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the launch of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) scheduled for June 19, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is coordinating with Axiom Space to refresh time-sensitive experimental specimens.

The ISRO announced on Monday that it, along with the Indian Principal Investigators (PIs), is coordinating with Axiom Space ahead of the Axiom-4 mission's (AX-4) scheduled launch.

The ISRO has shortlisted seven microgravity research experiments proposed by Indian (PIs) from various national R&D laboratories and academic institutions which Group Captain Shukla would be conducting during his 14-day stay at the ISS.

ISRO proposes seven research experiments to be conducted aboard the ISS. REUTERS

The seven experiments are impact of microgravity radiation in ISS on edible microalgae; sprouting salad seeds in space; survival, revival, reproduction and transcriptome of tardigrades in space; effect of metabolic supplements on muscle regeneration under microgravity; analysing human interaction with electronic displays in microgravity; comparative growth and proteomics responses of cyanobacteria on urea and nitrate in microgravity; and impact of microgravity on growth and yield parameters in food crop seeds.

The ISRO and NASA will be conducting five more experiments which will mainly be on human research programmes. The mission has been rescheduled four times due to various issues.

More Indians turning to AI for news, influencers pull in followers: report

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Influencers on social media platforms and generative AI are "supercharging a fragmented alternative media environment" for news consumption, the 2025 edition of the Digital News Report by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism said.

The report is based on an annual survey of 1 lakh news consumers in 48 countries, including India. Among respondents who "avoid the news" some of, or all, the time, English-speaking Indians with Internet access – which the report warns may not be representative of the entire population – rank fourth, with 50% of respondents in the country counting themselves in the group.

Influencers, in particular, have gained a sizeable audience, even particularly in news.

In India, more people prefer to watch the news rather than read it. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Losing traction

Broadcasting, print media and news websites are seeing engagement fall, the report found, as the share of news consumed through social media platforms such as YouTube and online aggregators expands, the report said.

"In the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, and India, more people now say they prefer to watch the news rather than read it, further encouraging the shift to personality-led news creators," the report said. Globally, trust in news as assessed by the report stayed at the same level as it was last year – 40%.

"YouTube content in India has been exploding in recent years with a host of successful talk shows that are both critical of and supportive of the Narendra Modi government," the report said.

Young people are less likely to consume news from publishers' websites, with around 41% of respondents aged between 18 and 34 saying that they consider social media and sites such as YouTube as their main source of news.

Misinformation risk

"Messaging apps such as WhatsApp are mostly considered less of a [mis- and disinformation] threat" by respondents, the report said. "One notable exception is India, the messaging app's largest market, where fake news have in the past incited mob violence (and deaths). Just over one in ten (11%) think that people they know (including friends and family) also play a role in spreading misinformation," the report said.

AI "comfort levels" among Indian respondents stood at 44%, with nearly a fifth of users saying they used chatbots to get the news weekly.

Advocates' body slams ED notice to senior lawyer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) on Monday stated that the action of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to issue notice to senior advocate Arvind Datar in connection with a legal opinion rendered by him to a client threatens the independence of the legal profession and misuse of authority.

"This action by the ED is not only unwarranted but reflects a disturbing trend of investigative overreach that undermines the very foundation of the rule of law," the association said.

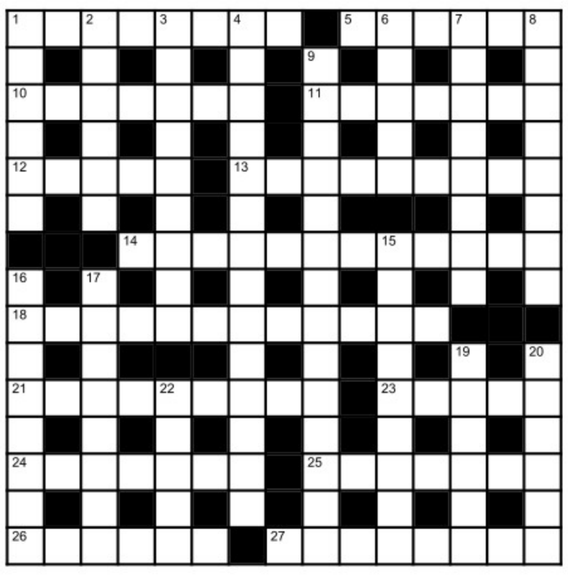
Even though the summons against Mr. Datar has since been withdrawn, the association said it strongly protests against the move.

TH CROSSWORD + 14513

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Endless mischief after old politician picks up European model (8)
5 Variety of grass from Australia in retreat - fantastic, I say (6)
10 Worrywart wants electronic circuit breaker on site (7)
11 Couple of associates touring research facility with graduate in American state (7)
12 Concern about Vatican sculpture (5)
13 A little smoke from cooking garlic oil (9)
14 Fall apart and put on weight around the hips (2,4-6)
18 Be utterly destroyed by disastrous megaflop in US (2,2,2,6)
21 Group takes hasty decision at first to make an emergency touchdown (5-4)
23 Bees in apiary circling around flowering plant (5)
24 Critical in retreat after consuming dope (7)
25 Old man in a lounge, surveying instrument (7)
26 Unwillingness to speak in summit, nervous (6)
27 Finest spot outside hotel on vacation (8)

Down

1 Most weak, taking tonic finally for strength (6)
2 Safeguard revolutionary plan to conserve nuclear energy (6)
3 Sausage and spirit served on pier (9)
4 Deceit shattered the official's firmly held belief (7,2,5)
6 Broadcasting unusual noir films, adult (2-3)
7 Stores containing everything for light boats (8)
8 Snake in Canada horribly crushes old caiman finally (8)
9 Go to eat grandma's extremely nice baked dish (7,3,4)
15 Heat item vigorously to obtain a valuable iron ore (9)
16 Playing reggae, member drinks cold beverage (3,5)
17 Reviewed unusual catalogue featuring American painter of frescoes (8)
19 Trapped by werewolf in a legendary climax (6)
20 Bond in extremely close fight finally overwhelms guys (6)
22 Observes hot escort in retreat, cuddling director (5)

SUDOKU

	9		1				2	
3	8			5	4		1	
5			3					
1						9		6
		9				5		
7		6						2
					1			4
	5		2	6			9	1
	1				7		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6553 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	7	8	6	9	4	2	3	5
5	6	3	1	7	2	9	4	8
4	2	9	5	3	8	1	7	6
8	9	6	3	2	5	4	1	7
7	1	2	4	8	9	6	5	3
3	5	4	7	6	1	8	2	9
2	3	7	9	4	6	5	8	1
6	8	1	2	5	3	7	9	4
9	4	5	8	1	7	3	6	2

FAITH

109th Divya Desam

Vedas say that a man lives for 100 years: fifty of these are spent in sleep; of the rest, childhood and puberty take up 15 years; the last 35 years go in sickness, age-related illnesses, etc. With nothing left of one's years, where is the need to be born? I do not want this birth, said Tondaradipodi Azhwar. What are the ways in which one can avoid rebirth? Divya Prabhandam shows the way, said Tirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh.

Rendered in Tamil, and accessible to all, the verses from Prabhandam showcase God in an easy to comprehend, identifiable manner and one should render relevant verses from this stellar work every day at home. Divya Prabhandam celebrates God and His attributes in a manner that resonates with the emotion of a devotee. Each one experiences God in his own way, internally and the verses in Nalayira Divya Prabahandam bring to life as it were Perumal in various stages. One may argue that various scriptural literature do likewise. The Vedas describe Perumal in Vaikunta. Agamas refer to Perumal in the Milky Ocean. Ithihasas describe Perumal's manifestations. Smritis say He is *antaryami*, ever present inside us. However, none of us can grasp the nuances of these four states and experience God. Prabhandam does this job admirably. The verses bring to life the archa murtis in temples and even in our homes.

Azhwars say the idols and images that are kept at home, with daily rituals of prayer, puja and offerings are also equally important and powerful. In fact, the idols at home are considered the 109th Divya Desam. There is a verse for each aspect of home prayer rituals in the Prabhandam.

INBRIEF

SBI reduces interest rates by up to 50 bps after RBI rate cut

State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced its lending rate by 50 basis points (bps) following RBI's rate cut, making loans cheaper for both existing and new borrowers. With the latest round of reduction, the repo linked lending rate (RLLR) of SBI would come down by 50 bps to 7.75%. It has also reduced external benchmark based lending rate (EBLR) by similar bps to 8.15% from 8.65% earlier. The revised rates come into effect from June 15, 2025, according to SBI's website. PTI

TCS to streamline complex transactions for CEB of Paris

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), a Paris-headquartered social development bank, to modernise its operations and drive greater efficiency. As part of this collaboration, TCS would deploy TCS BaNCSTM for Reconciliations to help the bank streamline complex transactions and automate key reconciliation processes using artificial intelligence and automation, the tech firm said.

Gokulam Group invests ₹25 cr. in start-up Travlounge

Travlounge, which provides premium restroom services to travellers on road, has received an investment of ₹25 crore from Sree Gokulam Group of companies. Promoted by the Kozhikode-based Beacon Group, it has already set up units at Walayar in Palakkad and Adimali near Munnar. Travlounge co-founder P.T. Safeer said that apart from building more units, the company would also be partnering with existing businesses that operate on highways.

'Govt. expects to seal initial tranche of trade pact with U.S. by July 9'

Early, abridged tranche of India-U.S. BTA will be completed by July 9, by when Trump's reciprocal tariffs would kick in again, a wider tranche by Fall this year, say Commerce Ministry officials; India-EU FTA talks, too, gaining momentum

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Talking trade: The Fall deadline was first mentioned in a joint statement after Mr. Modi's trip to the U.S. in February. REUTERS

The government is on track and hopeful of completing an initial tranche of the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement by the deadline of July 9, and a wider first tranche of the agreement by Fall of this year, according to officials in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

"On the India-U.S. BTA, the U.S. team was here in India for six days of negotiations from June 6-11," Rajesh Agrawal, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Chief Negotiator on India's behalf in the India-U.S. BTA negotiations, said at a press briefing. "We are progressing towards our target of finalising tranche one by Fall of 2025."

The Fall deadline – which is typically September to November in the U.S. – was first mentioned in a joint statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump following Mr. Modi's trip to the U.S. in February this year.

Regarding an early, abridged tranche of the deal, Commerce Secretary Sunil Berthwal said the government was hopeful of completing it by July 9, after which Mr. Trump's reciprocal tariffs would kick in again. "We are working out the early tranche, and as you are aware that there is a day, July 9, before that we would like to conclude the early tranche," Mr. Berthwal said.

"Both the teams are visiting each other. We visited the U.S. twice and the U.S. team has visited India twice, so the progress has been good. We are hopeful that this would be done within the timelines."

On the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce L. Satya Srinivas said the two sides were on track to complete the legal scrubbing of the text and finalise it in three months since negotiations ended.

The India-EU FTA talks, too, were gaining momentum, he said.

"On the EU FTA, there are some tracks that are working this week together, and we have our next round which is scheduled on July 7," Mr. Srinivas explained. "The momentum has picked up regarding the EU talks and the frequency of meetings has increased. Earlier we used to have rounds that were spread across a quarter or even more, but now the time period between meetings has reduced."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,796	0.84
US Dollar	86.04	0.08
Gold	1,01,370	-0.16
Brent oil	72.52	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2544.00	36.10
Adani Ports	1400.60	-4.40
Apollo Hosp	7114.00	119.50
Asian Paints	2244.80	30.60
Axis Bank	1215.40	9.60
Bajaj Auto	8529.50	66.00
Bajaj Finserv	2028.20	17.20
Bajaj Finance	938.00	4.90
Bharat Elec	403.85	9.65
Bharti Airtel	1861.30	20.90
Cipla	1527.00	21.80
Coal India	394.35	3.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1346.80	-15.70
Eicher Motors	5365.00	46.00
Eternal Ltd.	252.15	3.07
Grasim Ind	2704.90	41.10
HCL Tech	1723.00	27.70
HDFC Bank	1935.40	17.80
HDFC Life	770.55	17.70
Hero MotoCorp	4364.50	30.70
Hindalco	649.60	7.80
Hind Unilever	2327.40	8.40
ICICI Bank	1426.90	10.80
IndusInd Bank	821.25	4.40
Infosys	1623.80	21.80
ITC	418.20	4.30
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	294.15	0.10
JSW Steel	1003.80	16.55
Kotak Bank	2139.00	31.60
L&T	3628.70	41.30
M&M	3023.60	17.60
Maruti Suzuki	12530.00	122.00
NestleIndia	2389.80	13.00
NTPC	333.70	1.75
ONGC	256.79	5.28
PowerGrid Corp	288.65	3.15
Reliance Ind	1437.80	9.90
SBI Life	1797.80	42.60
State Bank	792.50	0.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	676.15	9.00
Sun Pharma	1685.30	-2.50
TataConsumerProduct	1083.40	5.00
Tata Motors	686.65	-25.40
Tata Steel	154.17	2.04
TCS	3496.30	50.60
Tech Mahindra	1693.90	34.90
Titan	3438.10	16.20
Trent Ltd.	5679.50	89.50
UltraTech Cement	11495.00	271.00
Wipro	262.89	2.68

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.87	86.19
Euro	99.42	99.80
British Pound	116.65	117.09
Japanese Yen (100)	59.59	59.81
Chinese Yuan	11.96	12.01
Swiss Franc	105.93	106.33
Singapore Dollar	67.08	67.34
Canadian Dollar	63.28	63.54
Malaysian Ringitt	20.23	20.33
Australian Dollar	55.98	56.19

Source:Indian Bank

PV sales dipped 0.8%, two-wheelers grew 2.2% YoY in May: SIAM

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Passenger Vehicle (PV) wholesales fell 0.8% year-on-year (YoY) to 3.45 lakh units in May 2025, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Three-wheeler wholesales de-grew 3.3% compared with May 2024, with sales of 0.54 lakh units, while the two-wheeler segment grew by 2.2% in May 2025, compared with May 2024, with sales of 16.56 lakh units.

Among three-wheelers, the e-rickshaw segment witnessed a sharp YoY fall of 40.1% to 720 units, while the e-cart segment fell 41.3% to 148 units.

Among two-wheelers, scooters grew 7.1% to 5,79,507 units, while the moped segment de-grew 7.7% to 37,264 units.

'Hopeful talks with China on rare earths will yield positive outcome'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Sunil Barthwal

The Centre is engaged with China commercially as well as diplomatically to help ease the plight of importers, especially the automobile sector, that are dependent on rare earth metals and magnets, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Monday.

He said he was "hopeful" that the discussions would yield a positive result. In addition, he said that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry would be holding a meeting this week with trade and shipping stakeholders to understand the issues they were facing due to the Israel-Iran conflict.

"Since China's actions on rare earth metals and magnets are impacting the auto sector more, we are engaged with both the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers and Automotive Component Manufacturers Association," Mr. Barthwal said.

On the Israel-Iran conflict, he said the overall impact on India's trade would depend on how the situation unfolds there, but added that India was tracking the developments.

TRAI caps Wi-Fi hotspot operator fee

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

ISPs sold commercial Internet plans priced '40 to 80 times' the residential tariffs.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday ordered that public Wi-Fi hotspot operators should not be charged more than twice what a residential broadband user pays to set up hotspots.

The order follows years of lower-than-targeted deployments of hotspots under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) programme, which, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and TRAI blamed on Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who frequently sold commercial Internet plans priced '40 to 80 times' the residential tariffs.

Over 2024, two versions of this order were drafted by TRAI, the second because the DoT removed the language from an earlier PM-WANI authorisation that mentioned "commercial agreement," necessitating a second draft order by TRAI.

In a departure from the latest draft, TRAI's final Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025 on Monday only applies to broadband tariffs of up to 200Mbps speeds.

Opposed to cap

The Broadband India Forum, which represents a few ISPs, had supported placing limits on tariffs charged to Wi-Fi hotspot operators. Telecom operators and Tata Communications, which run much of the Indian Internet's so-called "backhaul" bandwidth, were opposed to a cap on tariffs on Wi-Fi hotspot operators.

"There are ISPs like Tata Communications who are only serving the enterprise market and are not into the retail/consumer ISP broadband business and don't offer FTTH services," Tata Communications said in a filing last year.

"The proposed tariff framework will completely deprive such ISPs from availing such business opportunity of providing bandwidth to these PDOs," the firm added, using the acronym for Public Data Offices, the PM-WANI scheme's name for hotspot operators.

Second intervention

This is TRAI's second recent tariff intervention, a role it undertakes very rarely as prices are under a 'forbearance' regime with telecom operators and ISPs freely setting their tariffs.

A previous intervention last year, which was subsequently notified, was to make sure the telecom operators had calling and SMS-only plans for senior citizens and those who did not need data.

Telecom operators resisted the proposal during discussions and eventually implemented the directions by issuing such a tariff – but at a price that was only marginally cheaper than existing plans that included data.

WPI inflation dips to 14-month low of 0.39% in May

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Food article prices contracted 1.56% in May against a contraction of 0.86% in April

Wholesale price inflation (WPI) declined to a 14-month low of 0.39% in May on easing prices of food articles and fuel, and experts said geopolitical tensions could push up prices.

WPI-based inflation was 0.85% in April. It was 2.74% in May last year.

In a statement, the Industry Ministry said the inflaton in May was in the positive zone primarily due to an 'increase in the prices of manufacture of food products, electricity, other manufacturing, chemicals and chemical products, manufacture of other transport equipment and non-food articles."

According to the WPI data, food articles contracted 1.56% in May, against a contraction of 0.86% in April, with vegetables, onion, potato and pulses seeing negative inflation.

Deflation in vegetables was 21.62% in May, compared with 18.26% in April. Fuel and power, too, saw a deflation of 2.27% in May compared with 2.18% inflation in April.

Meta names Srinivas MD, head of India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Arun Srinivas

Meta on Monday named Arun Srinivas as MD and head of Meta in India with effect from July 1, the company said in a Facebook post. He is currently Meta's director and head of ads business in India.

As part of his new job, Mr. Srinivas would focus on bringing the organisation's business, innovation and revenue priorities together to serve partners and clients, while continuing to support the long-term growth of Meta's business and commitment to India, Meta said.

The appointment follows the recent announcement of Sandhya Devanathan taking on an expanded role of leading India and South East Asia.

As per LinkedIn, Mr. Srinivas comes with almost three decades of experience in sales and marketing leadership roles in various companies.

महाराजा गंगा सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
निविदा सूचना
विश्वविद्यालय में विभिन्न सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु निविदा जारी की गयी हैं, जिनके यूबीएन GSU2526GLOB00020, GSU2526GLOB00021 हैं। निविदाओं से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/25/4320 — वित्त नियंत्रक

Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation Pvt. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of the Government of Andhra Pradesh)
3rd Floor, NTR Administrative Block, Pandit Nehru Bus Station, NH-65, Vijayawada-520013, Andhra Pradesh.
Notice No.APDC/RFP/05/2025, Dt.14-06-2025
Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (APDC) invites proposals from Potential Applicants for Empanelment of Agencies for providing Drone-as-a-Service (DaaS) in Andhra Pradesh. Interested firms are requested to submit their proposals. The EOI document & other details can be downloaded from the website: **www.apsfl.in**
DIPR 4193PP/CL, Dt:16/06/2025 — **Sd/- Chairman & Managing Director**

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Thiruvananthapuram.
iidchillyaqua@gmail.com
Quotation Notice
KIIDC invited sealed super scribed quotation for the Supply of HDPE 28mm Bottle caps for Packaged drinking water bottles and Ice Cube Making Machine at our plants in Kerala. Details available in **www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in.**
Managing Director

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
Date: 16.06.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/IND0870	Procurement of Sandalwood Oil	7200 Kgs	12-06-2025	14-07-2025
2	KSDL/2025-26/IND0869	Procurement of Semi sealed compressor for finishing line no.11	1 No.	14-06-2025	30-06-2025
3	KSDL/2025-26/IND0868	Procurement of High speed Scanners	7 Nos.	16-06-2025	02-07-2025

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.
Sd/-
Asst. General Manager (Materials)

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o. The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Hyderabad
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Tender Notice No. 06/SE (P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26/ Date: 16.06.2025
Item No.: 1, **Name of Work:** Construction of 3 lane flyover on LHS (towards Ameerpet) and 3 lane flyover on RHS of NH65 (towards Miyapur) at Kukatpally "Y" Junction under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC)/ Turnkey Basis, **Est. Cost :** Rs. 180 Crores
Events & Date and Time: (1) Start Date: 18-06-2025 from 4.00 PM, **(2) Pre-Bid Meeting:** 25-06-2025 at 3.00 PM, Location: O/o. Chief Engineer (Projects), GHMC, 6th Floor, GHMC Head Office, Tank Bund, Hyderabad, **(3) Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids**: 09-07-2025 upto 3.00 PM, **(4) Opening of Technical bid:** 09-07-2025 after 4.00 PM, **(5) Opening of Price bid:** 09-07-2025 after 4.00 PM
Note: The Bidders are advised to visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in to download Bid Document and EPC project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to sesrdppwz@gmail.com
Address of the Officer concerned Sri G. Sree Lakshmi, SE (P-WZ), Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects-WZ), GHMC.
DIPR R.O.No.3643-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 16.06.2025

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) intends to invite online tenders for the following work:
Tender No.T25P111801 : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 07 no. of 400/220/33kV, 500 MVA Power Transformer at 400 KV Sub-Stations of DTL on turnkey basis (400 KV Sub-Stations Bawana, Bamnauli & Tikri –Kalan).
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. : 2025_DTL_273564_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-9602-130625.
Last date for bid submission: **04.08.2025 at 1.30 P.M.**
All Corrigendum / Addendum / Amendments / Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tenders would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

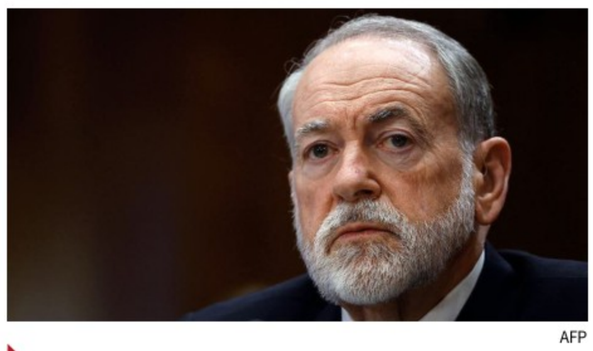
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer
(Dasarahalli-Lakes), 3rd Floor, Annex Building-3, N. R. Square, Bengaluru- 02.
No.EE(Lakes-DZ)/Tend-01 /2025-26 Date: 16.06.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
(website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
The Executive Engineer, (Dasarahalli Lakes), BBMP, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organisations for the below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	**Pathway improvements and construction of wetland bund to Shivapura Lake.** Approx. Value of work (₹. in Lakhs) : 125.25, EMD (in Lakhs) : 1.90.
2.	**Construction of outlet, footbridge and flood mitigation gates, Improvement of Walkway and allied works at Abbigere Lake.** Approx. Value of work (₹. in Lakhs) : 167.00 , EMD (in Lakhs) : 2.51.
3.	**Pathway improvements and fencing repairs at Nelagadarenahalli Lake.** Approx. Value of work (₹. in Lakhs) : 167.00 , EMD (in Lakhs) : 2.51.
4.	**Pathway Improvement and construction of culverts and sewage diversion drain at Doddabidarakallu Lake.** Approx. Value of work (₹. in Lakhs) : 250.00, EMD (in Lakhs) : 3.75.

Calendar of Events: (1) Available of Tender Documents: **18.06.2025 after 4:00 p.m. (2)** Pre-bid meeting: **27.06.2025 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for receipt of Tenders: **02.07.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical bid: **03.07.2025 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Opening of Finance bid: **After Approval of Technical bid (will be informed later).**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Dasarahalli-Lakes) BBMP.

JERUSALEM

U.S. envoy says Tel Aviv embassy building damaged in Iranian strike

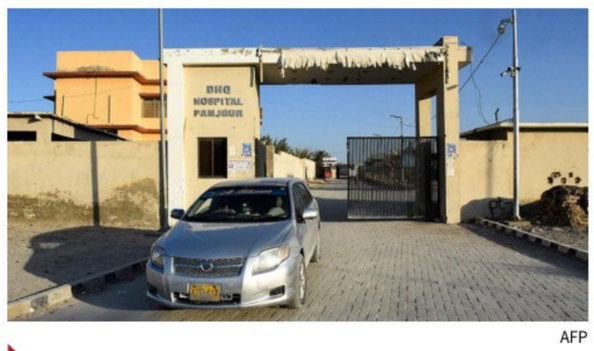


AFP

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, on Monday said an embassy building in Tel Aviv sustained minor damage from a nearby Iranian missile strike, reporting no injuries to U.S. personnel. Iran unleashed a barrage of missiles on Israeli cities early Monday, after Israel struck military targets deep inside Iran. AFP

QUETTA

Pakistan shuts border with Iran as Tehran trades strikes with Israel



AFP

Pakistan has closed all its border crossings with neighbouring Iran for an indefinite period, officials said on Monday, as Israel and Iran trade intense strikes. "Border facilities in all five districts — Chaghi, Washuk, Panjgur, Kech and Gwadar — have been suspended," Qadir Bakhsh Pirkani, a senior official in Balochistan province said. AFP

GENEVA

UN rights chief decries 'horrifying' suffering of Palestinians in Gaza

REUTERS

The UN human rights chief Volker Türk at the opening of the latest Human Rights Council session on Monday said Israel's warfare in Gaza is inflicting "horrifying, unconscionable suffering" on Palestinians and urged government leaders to exert pressure on Israel's government and the militant group Hamas to end it. AP

BELLE PLAINE

Man suspected of shooting two Minnesota lawmakers in custody

AFP

The man suspected of killing a Minnesota lawmaker and wounding another crawled to officers in surrender on Sunday bringing an end to two-day search that put the entire state on edge. Vance Boelter was arrested and charged with two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder. AP

Israeli air strike on Tehran cuts off Iran's state TV during live bulletin

The strike came after a barrage of Iranian missiles killed 11 people in Israel on the fourth day of an escalating air war; Israeli PM, in an interview, suggests that assassinating Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, would 'end the conflict'

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's state broadcaster was briefly knocked off air by an Israeli strike and explosions rang out across Tehran Monday, after a barrage of Iranian missiles killed 11 people in Israel on the fourth day of an escalating air war.

After decades of enmity and a prolonged shadow war, Israel on Friday launched a surprise aerial campaign against targets across Iran, saying they aimed to prevent its arch-foe from acquiring atomic weapons – a charge Tehran denies.

The sudden flare-up in hostilities has sparked fears of a wider conflict, with British Prime Minister Kier Starmer saying from a G7 summit in Canada that he believed there was "a consensus for de-escalation" among leaders of the club of wealthy democracies.

Forced to flee: A news reporter flee mid-broadcast after a powerful explosion rocked the IRIB building in Tehran on Monday. AFP

Israel's strikes have so far killed at least 224 people, including top military commanders, according to Iranian authorities. Iran has launched several waves of missiles in retaliation.

The live feed of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) was abruptly cut when an Israeli strike hit its building on Monday. A presenter in the midst of lambasting Israel was forced to flee mid-broadcast when a powerful explosion rocked the building, knocking out the monitors behind her and sending debris and dust falling from the ceiling, footage showed.

Issued evacuation

Israel had previously issued an evacuation warning for the part of town where IRIB is located, with Defence Minister Israel Katz saying before the strike that Iran's "propaganda and incitement megaphone is about to disappear". He later warned that Israel would "strike the Iranian dictator everywhere".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested Monday that assassinating Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei would "end the conflict" between the two arch-foes.

"It's not going to escalate the conflict, it's going to end the conflict," Mr. Netanyahu told ABC News in an interview.

China, Russia, Turkiye urge Iran, Israel to end fighting

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China urged Iran and Israel to "immediately" take steps to reduce tensions on Monday after Tehran unleashed a barrage of missile strikes on Israeli cities and Israel struck military targets deep inside Iran.

"We urge all parties to immediately take measures to cool down the tensions, prevent the region from falling into greater turmoil, and create conditions for returning to the right track of resolving issues through dialogue and negotiations," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said.

The Kremlin said Russian Preisident Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the war and called for an "immediate" end to fighting between Israel and Iran.

Guo Jiakun

"The leaders called for an immediate end to hostilities and the settlement of contentious issues, including those related to Iran's nuclear programme, exclusively through political and diplomatic means," the Kremlin said in its readout of the call.

In the conversation, Mr. Erdogan accused Israel of threatening security in West Asia. "The spiral of violence that began with Israel's attacks on Iran has put the security of the entire region at risk," Mr. Erdogan said.

China's top diplomat Wang Yi held phone calls with his Israeli and Iranian counterparts on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said, in which he made clear to both Beijing's support for Tehran.

Mr. Guo said on Monday "all relevant parties should immediately take steps to put the brakes on the escalation and to cool down the tensions".

"Force cannot bring lasting peace," he said. "China will continue to maintain communication with the relevant parties, and promote peace and encourage dialogue, to prevent further turbulence in the region," he said.

Where does Trump stand on the Israel-Iran conflict?

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On June 12, U.S. President Donald Trump called on Israel not to strike Iran. "We are fairly close to a pretty good agreement," Mr. Trump said, referring to a possible deal on Iran's nuclear programme. The U.S. and Iran were scheduled to meet for a sixth round of dialogue in Muscat on June 15. "I don't want them [Israel] going in, because I think it would blow it," said Mr. Trump. Within a few hours, Israel launched its biggest air strike in Iran, hitting the Natanz nuclear facility and multiple missile sites, and assassinating its top Generals.

The attack raised questions on whether Israel went ahead against the wishes of the Trump administration.

Green light from U.S.

Two Israeli officials told *Axios* that Mr. Trump knew all along about Israel's attack plans. When Mr. Trump's team, led by Steve Witkoff, was engaged in talks with Iran, Israel was preparing for the attack. The Israeli officials said Mr. Trump and his officials were only pretending to oppose an attack in public. "The goal was to convince Iran that no attack was imminent and make sure Iranians on Israel's target list wouldn't move to new locations," reports *Axios*. Israel carried out the attack after getting "a clear green light" from the U.S.

Later, Mr. Trump said in a media interview that he knew about the attack. Asked whether the Israelis had given him a heads-up, he responded, "Heads-up? It wasn't a heads-up. It was, we know what's going on." He said he had given Iran 60 days to make the deal. "On the 61st day, they [Israel] attacked. Today is 61 actually, and it was a very successful attack," Mr. Trump said on June 13. On the same day, in a Truth Social post, he said he gave Iran "chance after chance to make a deal. I told them, in the strongest words, to just do it, but no matter how hard they tried, no matter how close they got, they just couldn't get it done."

Rocket trails are seen in the sky above Netanya, Israel.

He warned that more "brutal" attacks were coming and "Iran must make a deal before nothing is left". In effect, Mr. Trump was saying he was clearly aware of both the attacks Israel had carried out and the attacks it had planned. He wanted to use the Israeli strikes as an added layer of pressure on Iran to come to the table and make concessions on the nuclear issue.

Threats to Iran

Iran's immediate response was to reject the planned June 15 talks. Iran responded to Israeli attacks with hundreds of ballistic missiles. The U.S. came to Israel's defence, with U.S. air defence systems deployed in the region shooting down Iranian projectiles. When the air war between Iran and Israel escalated, Mr. Trump came up with a warning for Iran. "The U.S. had nothing to do with the attack on Iran. If we are attacked in any way, shape or form by Iran, the full strength and might of the U.S. armed forces will come down on you at levels never seen before."

Iran was careful not to escalate the war beyond Israel. Israel, meanwhile, established air superiority in Iran and carried out widespread attacks. On June 15, Iran launched multiple attacks at Israel, targeting Haifa and Tel Aviv in which eight people were killed and over 300 injured. While the conflict was spiralling out of control, Mr. Trump said Israel and Iran should make a deal, "and will make a deal, just like I got India and Pakistan to make." Mr. Trump referred to several conflicts, which he claimed to have de-escalated. "I do a lot, and never get credit for anything," he said.

After Mr. Trump's call for a deal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Fox News that "regime change" could be an outcome of Israel's war against Iran. Asked when did he tell Mr. Trump about the attack plans, Mr. Netanyahu said he was in "constant contact" with the U.S. President. "Obviously we informed our American friends and President Trump, our great friend, ahead of time. He knew about it." On June 16, Israel claimed that it had total control of Tehran's skies. Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said "Tehran's residents will pay the price" for Iran's missile attacks. A massive bombing of Tehran followed.

'At least 34 Palestinians killed near aid centres'

Associated Press
DEIR AL-B

At least 34 Palestinians were killed Monday in new shootings in areas of Israeli- and U.S.-supported food distribution centres in the south of the Gaza Strip, the local Health Ministry said.

The toll was the deadliest yet in the near-daily shootings that have taken place as thousands of Palestinians move through Israeli military-controlled areas to reach the food centres run by the private contractor Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. Two witnesses said Israeli troops opened fire early on Monday in an attempt to control the crowds.

Bangladesh orders Hasina to return to face trial

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's war crimes court ordered fugitive former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday to return to face trial on charges amounting to crimes against humanity.

Ms. Hasina has defied an extradition order to return to Bangladesh.

"The court directed the prosecution team to issue a notice as soon as possible, summoning them to appear before the court," chief prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam said.

The trial will resume on June 24 without her if she fails to return.

THE HINDU
Best Places to Work 2025
POWERED BY WorkL

LIVE WEBINAR

Is your organisation one of the
Best Places to Work in India?
Find out how you can get recognised!

Stuart Duncan
Head of Commercial
WorkL For Business

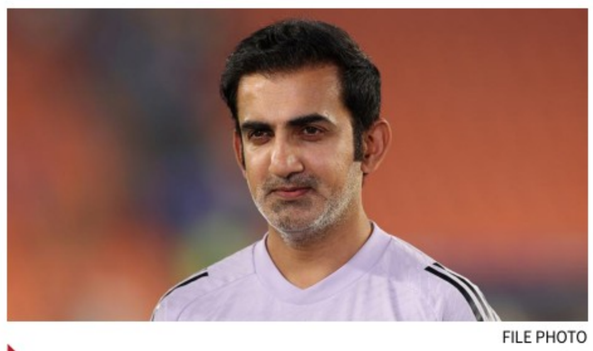
Topics that will be covered:
- Qualification criteria for Best Places to Work – India 2025
- Entry process, key dates, and important guidelines
- Reasons to participate
- Organisational benefits of being recognised

June 17, 2025 (Tuesday) | 02:00 p.m. (IST)

Scan the QR code or visit https://newsth.live/WorkLWebinar to register.

BACK ON DUTY

Head coach Gambhir to link up with India squad today



FILE PHOTO

India head coach Gautam Gambhir, who had flown back home last week due to a family emergency, will link up with the squad on Tuesday ahead of the opening Test against England at Leeds, beginning on June 20. Gambhir had rushed back to India after his mother had to be hospitalised.

SPIN TWINS

Team India should play Jadeja and Kuldeep at Leeds: Harbhajan

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Harbhajan Singh has favoured wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav to play in the first Test against England, alongside Ravindra Jadeja. "India should look to play Kuldeep Yadav. Let's see if conditions will change or favour spinners. But even if it doesn't, I think these are two capable bowlers who can take wickets on any wicket," he said.

DIFFICULT

Bowling to Kohli more challenging than to Tendulkar, says Anderson

GETTY IMAGES

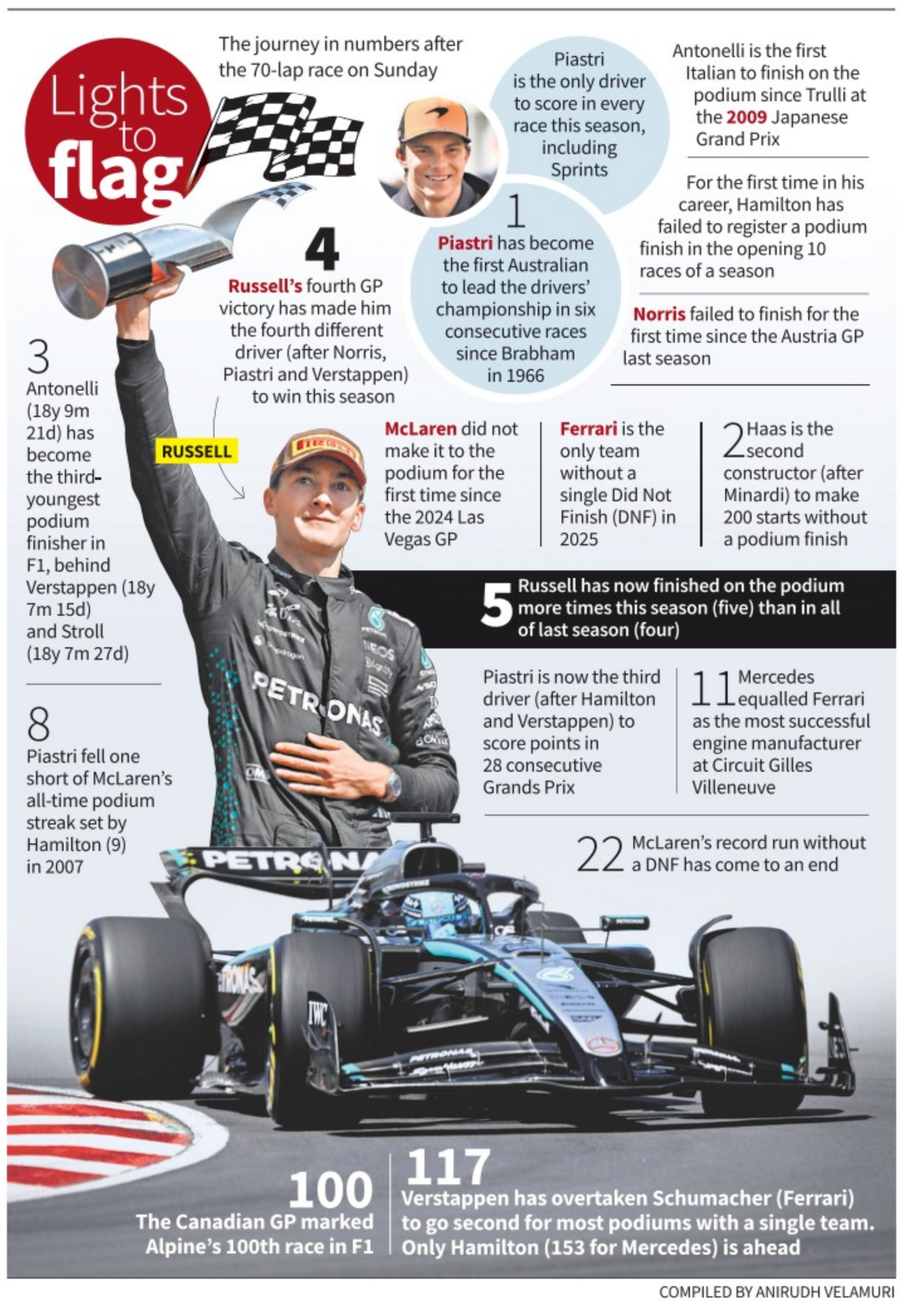
James Anderson enjoyed his battles with Tendulkar and Kohli but found bowling to the latter a tad tougher. "Against Sachin, for example, I didn't feel like there was that sort of shift in dominance but with Kohli, there was definitely a shift...I found him a really difficult player to bowl at because he also had a steely mindset."

PUT OFF

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy launch delayed due to air tragedy

FILE PHOTOS

The launch of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy for the Test series between India and England has been delayed due to the airline tragedy in Ahmedabad. "The launch of ATT Trophy (which was to be held originally on June 14) has been delayed due to the tragedy in Ahmedabad. It has not been cancelled," a BCCI official said.


Lights to flag
The journey in numbers after the 70-lap race on Sunday
Piastri is the only driver to score in every race this season, including Sprints
Antonelli is the first Italian to finish on the podium since Trulli at the 2009 Japanese Grand Prix
4
Russell's fourth GP victory has made him the fourth different driver (after Norris, Piastri and Verstappen) to win this season
1
Piastri has become the first Australian to lead the drivers' championship in six consecutive races since Brabham in 1966
For the first time in his career, Hamilton has failed to register a podium finish in the opening 10 races of a season
Norris failed to finish for the first time since the Austria GP last season
3
Antonelli (18y 9m 21d) has become the third-youngest podium finisher in F1, behind Verstappen (18y 7m 15d) and Stroll (18y 7m 27d)
RUSSELL
McLaren did not make it to the podium for the first time since the 2024 Las Vegas GP
Ferrari is the only team without a single Did Not Finish (DNF) in 2025
2 Haas is the second constructor (after Minardi) to make 200 starts without a podium finish
5 Russell has now finished on the podium more times this season (five) than in all of last season (four)
8
Piastri fell one short of McLaren's all-time podium streak set by Hamilton (9) in 2007
Piastri is now the third driver (after Hamilton and Verstappen) to score points in 28 consecutive Grands Prix
11 Mercedes equalled Ferrari as the most successful engine manufacturer at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve
22 McLaren's record run without a DNF has come to an end
100
The Canadian GP marked Alpine's 100th race in F1
117
Verstappen has overtaken Schumacher (Ferrari) to go second for most podiums with a single team. Only Hamilton (153 for Mercedes) is ahead

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Mercedes' Russell holds off Verstappen

Teenager Antonelli gets his first podium; McLaren drivers Norris and Piastri collide at the close of race; Piastri stretches lead to 22 points

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
MONTREAL

Collision: Norris jumps out of his car after crashing out. AP

George Russell celebrated Mercedes' first win of the Formula One season in Canada on Sunday while McLaren's Oscar Piastri went 22 points clear in the championship after teammate Lando Norris smashed into him and retired.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who had hoped to win for a record fourth year in a row at Montreal's Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, had to settle for second after a challenge fizzed out behind the safety car.

Russell's 18-year-old rookie teammate Kimi Antonelli finished third for his first F1 podium and the first by an Italian since 2009.

Piastri was fourth, with the safety car leading the final lap before peeling off to clear the way for Russell to take the chequered flag.

Piastri now has 198 points ahead of Norris on 176, with Verstappen on 155 with Russell on 136.

In the constructors' standings Mercedes moved up to second, ahead of Ferrari and 175 points behind McLaren.

"Well done team. That made up for last year," said Russell, who also started on pole in 2024 but finished third. His last win before Sunday was in Las Vegas in November.

"It's amazing to be back on the top step. I felt last year was a victory lost and probably got the victory today due to the incredible pole lap yesterday."

Drama

An uneventful afternoon erupted in headline drama when Norris hit the rear of Piastri's car three laps from the end – a clash long predicted in the title battle between the pair – while trying to overtake.

The Briton, whose broken car stopped by the side of the track, was quick to blame himself when it all went wrong after they had earlier gone side by side.

"I'm sorry. All my bad. All my fault. Stupid from me," Norris said over the team radio.

Stewards ruled he was solely to blame and handed him a meaningless five-second penalty.

Later stewards rejected a Red Bull protest that Russell breached the rules by driving erratically when the safety car was deployed in the final laps of the race and also showed unsportsmanlike conduct.

The results:
1. Russell (Mercedes) 1h 31m 52.688s; 2. Verstappen, (Red Bull) +0.228s; 3. Antonelli (Mercedes) 1.014; 4. Piastri (McLaren) 2.109; 5. Leclerc (Ferrari) 3.442; 6. is Hamilton (Ferrari) 10.713; 7. Alonso (Aston Martin) 10.972; 8. Hulkenberg (KICK Sauber) 15.364; **+1 lap:** 9. Ocon, (Haas); 10. Sainz Jr. (Williams); 11. Bearman (Haas); 12. Tsunoda (Red Bull); 13. Colapinto (Alpine); 14. Bortoleto (KICK Sauber); 15. Gasly (Alpine); 16. Hadjar (Racing Bulls); 17. Stroll (Aston Martin); **DNF:** Lando Norris (McLaren); Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls); Alexander Albon (Williams).
Standings (top five):
Drivers: 1. Piastri 198 pts.; 2. Norris 176; 3. Verstappen 155; 4. Russell 136; 5. Leclerc 104.
Constructors:
1. McLaren 374; 2. Mercedes 199; 3. Ferrari 183; 4. Red Bull 162; 5. Williams 55.

India-Pakistan match in Colombo on Oct. 5

WOMEN'S ODI WC

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India's marquee women's ODI World Cup match against Pakistan will be held at the neutral venue of R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on October 5, the ICC announced on Monday.

Colombo had to be added as a neutral venue according to the hybrid model that was accepted for the men's Champions Trophy and beyond earlier this year, after India refrained from travelling to Pakistan for the ICC event.

India will kick off its campaign against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru on September 30, and will also face Bangladesh on October 26 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

India's contest against the Lankans is also the opening match of the ICC showpiece.

Pakistan will play all its matches in Colombo as per the hybrid model.

Apart from the match against India, it will also play against Bangladesh (October 2), Australia (October 8), England (October 15), New Zealand (October 18), South Africa (October 21) and Sri Lanka (October 24) at the Premadasa Stadium.

The first semifinal is scheduled for October 29 either at Guwahati or Colombo depending on Pakistan's progress in the tournament.

The second semifinal will be held at Bengaluru on October 30, while the final will be held in Bengaluru or Colombo on November 2 as per Pakistan's standing in the event.

India is hosting this global event for the first time since 2013, and all the eight teams will play each other in a round-robin format, with the top four entering the semifinals.

India's schedule

Sept. 30: vs Sri Lanka, Bengaluru; **Oct. 5:** vs Pakistan, Colombo; **Oct. 9:** vs South Africa, Visakhapatnam; **Oct. 12:** vs Australia, Visakhapatnam; **Oct. 19:** vs England, Indore; **Oct. 23:** vs New Zealand, Guwahati; **Oct. 26:** vs Bangladesh, Bengaluru.

Busy days ahead: The Women in Blue will play at five venues in the league phase. FILE PHOTO

One to emulate: Sai Sudharsan says Washington's journey through the ranks has been an inspiration.
FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

I have looked up to Washington a lot, says Sai Sudharsan

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
BECKENHAM

Washington Sundar's meteoric rise from age-group to international cricket in a quick span of time was an inspiration for his younger State-mate B. Sai Sudharsan, who is all set to make his Test debut against England at Leeds on June 20.

In 2016, Washington was playing more as a specialist batter for India U-19 in the junior World Cup and within a year and half, he was playing his first ODI as an 18-year-old. In 2021, he made his Test debut as a 20-year-old and was one of the heroes of the Border-Gavaskar triumph.

Sai Sudharsan, who is two years junior to Washington, spoke about how his senior's journey goaded him to work harder in order to achieve his goal of donning India colours. "I had played a few games against him (junior level). So, it's always special. We have looked up to him a lot and the way he went up and played for the country, it was real quick, I had that in my mind," Sai Sudharsan told *BCCI.tv* on sidelines of the intra-squad warm-up game with a beaming Washington by his side.

"He (Washington) did well in the IPL. Then he played for the country, so it was great motivation for me, that someone from Chennai (is playing for India).

"Knowing him and playing with him since we were young, it made me feel I also want to do it the same way. He was an inspiration," the stylish southpaw's admiration for Washington was there to be seen.

Washington, who has played nine Tests, 23 ODIs and 54 T20Is for India, also spoke about the time when Sai Sudharsan was coming through the ranks as this talented cricketer from Chennai.

"Lot of my coaches and friends as well, constantly spoke about his (Sai Sudharsan's) growth in his cricketing career, always grown, only managed to get better," Washington said.

"Every time I watched him (Sudharsan) on TV, there was a lot to take from his skill-set, kind of work ethic, which definitely inspired a lot of kids".

Leader Szocs soaks in U Mumba's UTT triumph

Amol Karhadkar
AHMEDABAD

Days after winning a silver medal in women's doubles at the World Table Tennis Championship, Bernadette Szocs arrived in Ahmedabad with an eye on building on the World Championship glory.

Three weeks later, on Sunday, Szocs couldn't hide her emotions after lifting the glittering Ultimate Table Tennis trophy as the U Mumba captain.

Moments after a prolonged celebration at the EKA Arena and before joining her teammates at the hotel for a party, Szocs recalled her statement at the pre-tournament media briefing.

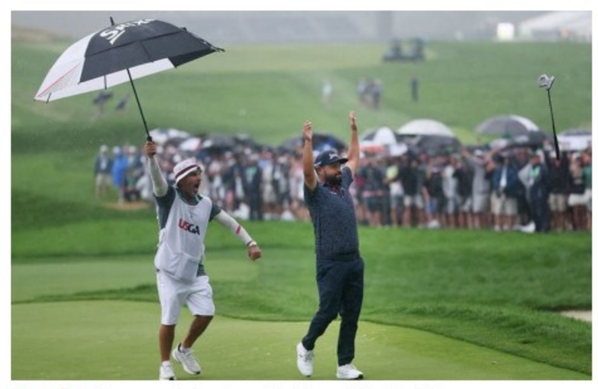
"I waited so much for this. In the first interview I gave, I said that I would like to bring the first title for U Mumba, and I did it," an elated Szocs said.

"I am very proud of myself and my teammates and the support staff. They have given everything for us for this title. We were a dream team. We had an amazing spirit, and that was our secret for bringing the title home."

U Mumbai has been one of the underachieving outfits in UTT. "This gives me a lot of motivation for the future, a lot of confidence. When I came here, I was under a little pressure. I'm very happy after this dream result." While one would have expected the victory party to carry on till early morning, with the tight schedules that top paddlers work around, there was very little time. Even before sunrise, Szocs and her French teammate Lilian Bardet had to board a flight for a WTT event in Slovenia.

"I want to celebrate it very well, but I am going to Slovenia for WTT. But I will make sure that I celebrate it with the people who supported me".

In the limelight: Szocs says this victory will give her a lot of confidence for the future. VIJAY SONEJI



Pure joy: Spaun celebrates with his caddie Mark Carens. AFP

Spaun wins first Major with a late charge

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
OAKMONT

J.J. Spaun sank a 65-foot birdie on the final hole to win the US Open on Sunday, capturing his first Major title despite bogeys on five of his first six holes.

The 34-year-old American finished on one-under 279 after a closing two-over 72 to defeat Scotland's Robert MacIntyre by two strokes with Norway's Viktor Hovland third on 282.

"I never thought I would be holding this trophy," Spaun said. "I'm proud I've been so resilient in my career."

Spaun, who took home a top prize of $4.3 million, wiped tears from his eyes as spectators chanted his name when he walked off the green. The only prior PGA Tour victory in Spaun's career came at the 2022 Texas Open.

Final scores: 279 - J.J. Spaun 66-72-69-72; 281 - Robert MacIntyre 70-74-69-68; 282 - Viktor Hovland 71-68-70-73; 283 - Tyrrell Hatton 73-70-68-72, Carlos Ortiz 71-72-67-73, Cameron Young 70-74-69-70.

INBRIEF

Stockholm world record feat extra sweet for Duplantis

Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis said "it was a magical feeling" to break his own world record at home. He cleared the 6.28m at the Stockholm Diamond League meet on Sunday. With victory already guaranteed, Duplantis broke the world record for the 12th time as he sailed over the bar at the first attempt to improve on his 6.27m effort at Clermont-Ferrand in February. "I wanted this so bad. I wanted to do this in front of everybody here in Stockholm. It felt like something really special in the crowd today, and I knew that everybody really wanted to see it too. It'll be one of the greatest memories for me in my career," he said.

WI shows batting might in series win against Ireland

West Indies piled up its second-highest T20I total and beat Ireland by 62 runs on Sunday at Bready to clinch a rain-marred three-game series 1-0.

The scores: West Indies 256/5 in 20 overs (Lewis 91, Hope 51, Carty 49 n.o.) bt Ireland 194/7 in 20 overs (Ross Adair 48, Tector 38; Hosein 3/27). **Toss:** Ireland. **PoM**: Lewis.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karnataka women win silver in 3x3 National basketball

Karnataka women's basketball team claimed the silver medal after losing to Kerala in the final of the first under-23 3x3 National basketball championship in Kochi recently. Karnataka succumbed to Kerala 11-19.

Chikkamagalur District, Mounts Club triumph

Chikkamagalur District and Mounts Club emerged the boys' and girls' champions respectively at the State junior (under-18) basketball championship for D.N. Rajanna Memorial Trophy recently. While Chikkamagalur overcame DYES Bangalore 91-78, Mounts Club beat Mysore District-A 54-47.

Bangalore Sports Club reigns

Bangalore Sports Club defeated Mount Joy by a thumping 121-run margin to win the KSCA (Group-I) U-16 inter-club tournament.

The scores (final): Bangalore SC 208 in 49.4 overs (Ekansh Roul 45, Arush Jain 35, Aakash Suresh 5/32, Narasimha 3/48) bt Mount Joy 87 in 28.4 overs (Chavanth Gowda 41, Vikram 3/22, Gokul Sunkara 4/23, Jaivardhan Sipani 3/15).

Karthik hits double ton for Jawans CC

S.U. Karthik smashed a double century (246) as Jawans CC raked up a 530-run total and restricted Cambridge CC to 319 to take the first-innings lead in a drawn KSCA (Group I) first-division encounter.

The scores: Jawans 530 in 89.3 overs (S.U. Karthik 246, Dheeraj J. Gowda 105, P. Dhakshath 59, S. Ishaan 53 n.o., Advith M. Shetty 5/80) drew with Cambridge 319 in 76.4 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 56, S. Nithin 36, Shubhang Hegde 81, Rehan Mohammed 56, Dheeraj J. Gowda 5/76) & 70/1 in 5.4 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 60).

Swastic Union (1) 240 in 68.4 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 39, A. Rohan Patil 37, E.J. Jasper 65, Hardik Raj 5/58) drew with Swastic Union (2) 420/6 in 87.2 overs (Ravi Kairav Reddy 32, Sujay Sateri 52, Aneeshwar Gautam 141, N.A. Chinmay 53, B. Vijaya Raj 50 n.o., Hardik Raj 51 n.o., Abhilash 3/75).

Herons 132 in 35.3 overs (Prajwal Pavan 55, Faizan Khan 31, Abhishek Prabhakar 5/41, Mohammad Ashfaq 3/46) & 189/6 in 47 overs (S. Bhargav 63, M.R. Jayanth 30, Aditya Mani 34 n.o., Mohammad Ashfaq 3/37) drew with Social Cricketers 250/9 decl. in 62.3 overs (Sudhanwa U. Kulkarni 32, S. Aadarsh Prajwal 71, Shaun Tristan Joseph 35, Kushal Pramesh 4/55, Aditya Mani 3/54).

Sir Syed Cricketers 307/6 in 83.2 overs (B.A. Mohith 66, Rahul Prasanna 88 n.o., Monish Reddy 62) drew with Vultures 231/3 in 48 overs (Srujan Nandan 42, C.R. Kumaraswamy 45, K.P. Karthikeya 102 n.o., Kruthik Krishna 34 n.o.).

Vijaya 349/8 in 78.4 overs (Tushar Singh 194, Yashovardhan Parantap 53, Anvay Dravid 69, D. Avinash 3/68) drew with Rajajinagar Cricketers 186 in 47.4 overs (R.V. Nikhil Vedanth 55, D. Avinash 36, Yashovardhan Parantap 4/39, Sachin Shinde 3/40).

Bangalore Occasionals 433/5 in 83 overs (Niranjan 98, Bhuvan M. Raju 54, Suraj Ahuja 52, Rajvir Wadhwa 80 n.o., S. Shivaraj 114, Mitrakant Singh Yadav 3/109) drew with Century Cricketers 300 in 74.4 overs (Rishav Appachu Manavatira 27, C.A. Karthik 106, Madhav P. Bajaj 44, Kranthi Kumar 3/43).

BUCC (1) 321/9 in 90 overs (Lochan Appanna 93, Sharath Srinivas 51, Vaibhav Sharma 40 n.o., Smayan Srivastav 3/67) drew with Coles 157 in 40.1 overs (K. Shashindra 40, Smayan Srivastav 38, Aditya Goyal 4/43, Akash Shetty 3/30) & 120/2 in 20 overs (Ashwin Santosh 37 n.o., K.S. Lankesh 55 n.o.).

Naveen slots in six goals as Maharaja Socials wins big

Naveen Eswar's double hat-trick powered Maharaja Socials FC to a massive 16-0 win over BHEL (EDN) FC in the BDFA C-division league here on Monday.

Other results: BDFA C-div: Misaka United FC bt Vivekananda FC 5-0; Empire FC bt Vel Socials FC 3-0; KSFA C-div: Yelahanka FC bt Crystal FC 3-0; Bangalore Balaharkha FC drew with Raman SA 0-0; Ronaldo FC bt Gopalan FC 2-1; Garden City FC bt Technico FF 1-0.

PSG plays like a champion against Atletico

The Champions League winner blanks the Spanish side; German giant Bayern shows no mercy as it puts 10 past a hapless Auckland City

CLUB WORLD CUP

Reuters
LOS ANGELES

Dominant show: Vitinha's second goal put PSG firmly in control. AP

Fabian Ruiz and Vitinha scored first-half goals as Paris Saint-Germain opened Club World Cup Group-B play with a 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid on Sunday at Pasadena.

Senny Mayulu added another goal in the final minutes, and Lee Kang-in scored a penalty kick in stoppage-time as PSG finished off a strong performance at the Rose Bowl.

In the first half, Ruiz put the Champions League winner on the board in the 19th minute when he sent a left-footed shot into the right corner.

Vitinha then scored a crucial goal in the first minute of first-half stoppage-time. He shed a defender and drilled a hard right-footed shot into the net.

Atletico Madrid looked as if it was back in the game when Julio Alvarez sent in a right-footer from the right side into the left corner of the net in the 57th minute.

But a sequence before the goal was reviewed, and it was decided a foul should have been called when Koke hip-checked Desire Doue to the turf. That led to the goal being negated.

Mayulu sealed the match with a right-footed goal in the 87th, and Lee nailed his left-footed penalty kick in the seventh minute of added time.

Atletico had a big opportunity in the third minute when Julian Alvarez sent a free kick wide right of the net.

PSG held a 16-5 edge in shots and put 11 on target to just one for Atletico.

Botafogo posts win

In the other Group-B encounter, Brazilian and South American champion Botafogo survived a late onslaught to beat MLS side Seattle Sounders 2-1 at Lumen Field.

Palmeiras and Porto played out a 0-0 draw in their Group-A opener at the MetLife Stadium, with Porto's stand-in goalkeeper Claudio Ramos delivering a stellar performance to frustrate the Brazilian outfit.

Earlier, Bayern Munich began its campaign in emphatic fashion with a ruthless 10-0 demolition of Auckland City, as Jamal Musiala marked his return from injury with a brilliant second-half hat-trick in a commanding team display.

The Bundesliga champion had possession for 71% of the match and had 17 shots on target to just one for Auckland City. Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer made one save.

The results:

Group A: At East Rutherford: Palmeiras 0 drew with Porto 0.

Group B: At Pasadena: Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Ruiz 19, Vitinha 45+1, Mayulu 87, Lee 90+7-pen) bt Atletico Madrid 0.

At Seattle: Botafogo 2 (Jair Cunha 28, Igor Jesus 44) bt Seattle Sounders 1 (Roldan 75).

Group C: At Cincinnati: Bayern Munich 10 (Coman 6, 21, Boey 18, Olise 20, 45+3, Mueller 45, 89, Musiala 67, 73-pen, 84) bt Auckland City 0.

Panthers level ball-tampering allegations against Ashwin's Dragons

Casting aspersions: Panthers have officially written to TNPL CEO Prasanna Kannan that Ashwin and his players tampered with the ball during Saturday's match. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Tarun Shastry
SALEM

A fresh controversy has erupted in the TNPL, with Siechem Madurai Panthers levelling serious ball-tampering allegations against Dindigul Dragons and its captain R. Ashwin following Dragons' nine-wicket victory on Saturday.

Madurai Panthers has officially written to TNPL CEO Prasanna Kannan that Ashwin and his players tampered with the ball during the match. The franchise claimed that the Dindigul-side used chemically treated towels, which allegedly made the ball heavier and caused it to produce a metallic sound upon contact with the bat.

In response, the TNPL dismissed the allegations as "unsubstantiated" and requested the franchise to furnish "material evidence" to support its claims. The league also clarified that the towels provided to both teams were standard issue and made equally available.

"No protest or concern regarding ball tampering was raised during the match by any official or team representative. The allegation appears to be post-facto, speculative in nature, and based solely on internal team communication without supporting evidence," read the email from CEO Prasanna Kannan, which was accessed by *The Hindu*.

The TNCA, in its statement, said it had reviewed the allegations and found no evidence. Match officials also reported no concerns. However, it stated that teams may request an independent inquiry by 3 p.m. on Tuesday with credible evidence, and that any baseless claims may lead to disciplinary action.

SNAPSHOTS

Prominent names fail to make the team for archery Worlds

Reigning compound individual World champions Ojas Deotale and Aditi Swami, Asian Games silver medallist Abhishek Verma and Olympian recurve archers Atanu Das and Bhajan Kaur have missed out on berths in the Indian team for the World archery championships, to be held in Gwangju, South Korea, from September 5 to 12.

Top four archers: Recurve: Men: 1. B. Dhiraj, 2. Neeraj Chauhan, 3. Rahul, 4. Tarundeep Rai. **Women:** 1. Deepika Kumari, 2. Ankita Bhakat, 3. Gatha Khadake, 4. Sharvari Shende.

Compound: Men: 1. Aman Saini, 2. Prathamesh Fuge, 3. Rishabh Yadav, 4. Priyansh. **Women**: 1. V. Jyothi Surekha, 2. Parneet Kaur, 3. Prithika Pradeep, 4. Taniparthi Chikitha.

Deepesh and Naman drafted into India u-19 team for England tour

D. Deepesh and Naman Pushpak have been drafted into the India Men's U-19 squad for the upcoming tour of England as replacements for injured Aditya Rana and Khilan Patel, the BCCI said on Monday. The tour is scheduled from June 24 to July 23.

The squad: Ayush Mhatre (Capt.), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra, Maulyarajsinh Chavda, Rahul Kumar, Abhigyan Kundu (vice-capt. & wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), R. S. Ambrish, Kanishk Chouhan, Henil Patel, Yudhajit Guha, Pranav Raghavendra, Mohammed Enaan, Anmoljeet Singh, D. Deepesh and Naman Pushpak.

Rujula's eye firmly on taking her game to the next level

BADMINTON

Maya Sarkar
BENGALURU

Aiming high: Rujula's short-term goals include strong showing at Asian juniors and making it to the World juniors. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Rising Karnataka badminton talent Rujula Ramu is set to debut for India u-19 at the prestigious Badminton Asia Junior Championships in July in Indonesia.

The 17-year-old sealed her place directly through a tournament victory - the Yonex Sunrise All India Junior Ranking Badminton tournament here recently - bypassing the need for trials, underscoring her current form.

"The winner would directly get selected. I was anxious, a little tense as well. After I won, everything felt better. I was very happy," an elated Rujula told *The Hindu*.

Rujula's journey began when she was seven, with badminton evolving from a casual family activity. Her parents fostered her passion while allowing her to embrace the sport on her terms.

"From the day I started, there was no pressure from them. They just said 'as long as you like it, play it'. They're very supportive... even motivating. They never said you have to win this tournament or that [tournament]," she added.

Rujula attributed her consistent performances to a rigorous training regimen, typically involving three sessions - two focused on playing and one on fitness. This approach should facilitate her transition from the junior ranks into senior competitions and help keep up her attacking game.

"I am an aggressive player. I really like these cross-court drops from my forehand side as well as the backhand side," Rujula said.

Rujula is the India No. 1 in the u-19 category and is ranked fifth among the seniors. In March 2025, she demonstrated her international prowess as well by securing the silver medal at the German Juniors.

"I hadn't played so many internationals. It was my first time against all of these guys [top-tier players from Malaysia, China, and Japan]. I started really well. And that continued throughout," Rujula stated.

Looking ahead, the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy trainee's short-term aspirations include strong performances at the Asian juniors and being selected for the World juniors.

"Long-term goal has to be the Olympics. The Olympics, World Championships, and the Commonwealth Games..." she emphasised.

For this, Rujula can draw inspiration from stars like P.V. Sindhu and Ashwini Ponnappa.

"Looking at her [Sindhu] train... although she's achieved so much, she still works with the same intensity. It motivates me to do better," Rujula signed off.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m. (Tuesday), 9.30 p.m. (Tuesday); 12.30 a.m. & 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.

WTA Chennai Open to be held from October 27

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The WTA on Monday officially announced that the WTA 250 Chennai Open will be played from October 27 at the SDAT Nungambakkam Tennis Stadium.

It will feature a 32-player singles draw and a 16-team doubles field. Chennai had previously hosted a WTA 250 event in 2022.

Linda Fruhvirtova won the singles title while Gabriela Dabrowski and Luisa Stefani clinched the doubles crown.

Vijay Amritraj, President TNTA, thanked the strong support received from the Government of Tamil Nadu and the SDAT.